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ALL THESE JOBS FROM 11 FLIGHTS?

AN announcement that there could be more night flights to and from Manston has reignited the debate over the development of Kent International Airport.

Some of those affected by the proposed changes are pouring scorn on the claim by airport owner Infratil that hundreds of jobs will be created if it gets its wish for 11 more 747 flights a week.

Infratil says 412 jobs are on the horizon if it seals a deal with a "major European airline", rumoured to British Airways World Cargo.

It has asked Thanet council to allow

■ BY TOM BETTS

it to expand its operating hours from 7am-11pm to 6am-11.30pm, meaning the Section 106 agreement governing flight times would need changing.

The flights would carry freight, not passengers, and could start in May.

Tim Garbutt, who runs Ramsgate's Surin Restaurant with his wife Damrong, said: "Eleven flights a week won't create the jobs at the airport that are being claimed - it's flannel."

"The 300 other jobs [described by Infratil as "indirect/induced"] they're talking about are simply made up.

The claims are vague and nonsensical."

Peter Binding, from Ramsgate and a member of the Kent International Airport Consultative Committee, said: "I doubt this will create more than a dozen jobs up there - it's pure fiction."

"How can you create that many jobs from 11 flights a week?"

Mr Binding is now even questioning the worth of the committee.

KIACC is a statutory body, but no mention of the plans was made at the last meeting in December, says Mr Binding.

"We had a public meeting and all the talk was about passenger flights and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



LIBRARY'S WAVE OF OPTIMISM

Thousands of people have already flocked to Ramsgate Library following last week's reopening, with the stained-glass window on the second floor proving a star attraction.

The window was designed by students from Clarendon House Grammar School, which is next to the library, Ellington Infant School and St Lawrence College and has drawn praise from visitors of all ages.

This is just one of 12 images which surround a centrepiece depicting the blaze that destroyed the original building in 2004.

The official reopening ceremony, with Ramsgate film star Brenda Blethyn, takes place on Friday, February 20.

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It's full steam ahead if talks are a success

■ BY TOM BETTS

NEGOTIATIONS aimed at reopening Ramsgate Maritime Museum are still ongoing between Thanet council and the Steam Museum Trust, but a resolution could be just weeks away.

The trust, based near Canterbury, is keen to take the museum out of limbo after its doors were closed last year in the wake of a funding crisis after the council cut its grant.

The trust wants the museum reopened in time for the summer months.

Thanet council still owns the building and the dock where the steam tug the Cervia is moored. The boat was loaned to the East Kent Maritime Trust (EKMT) 25 years ago after it left service.

No fee was taken, but in return the EKMT was asked to look after, maintain and restore the vessel. However, over the years it has deteriorated into what Steam Museum Trust chairman Michael List-Brain describes as an "appalling" condition.

He says that in 2003 the EKMT walked away, but he took it to court and won the case.

Half the settlement was the contents of the maritime museum, which were passed to the Steam Museum Trust.

Mr List-Brain said: "The intention now, having got to this situation, is to start the museum up again with improved vigour and resources."

"But as the building and harbour belong to Thanet council, any museum is dependent on its goodwill and support and to that end we are in discussions. I would like to get it run-



COASTAL HERITAGE: Ramsgate Maritime Museum could be reopening this summer

ning again in the summer as I feel if the museum is closed for a year people will forget about it.

"We are waiting, but the council is aware that timing is important and there is a very valuable collection sitting in limbo. Hopefully we can help move the situation forward."

The Steam Museum Trust runs the annual Preston Steam Rally and Mr List-Brain has a 40-year association with Ramsgate.

He bought the Cervia in 1971 for £3,100 with the goal of restoring it.

A council official said: "Discussions are taking place between the council and the trust about their ideas for museum provision in Ramsgate."

Infratil airport jobs claim flies into flak

FROM FRONT PAGE

and then they do something different. "Where is the consultation? The committee is being bypassed all the time. The Secretary of State should step in."

Thanet council says it was approached by Infratil about the plans just two weeks ago, on Thursday, January 29.

It announced the news on Wednesday last week. The Section 106 agreement that governs flight times and flight paths at the airport would need to be changed with an 18-month variation to accommodate Infratil's wishes.

Mr Binding says the only reason BA wants a base at Manston is because it wants to avoid the quota system at Heathrow. A reduction in the number of freight flights could free up slots to land more passengers at Heathrow.

Mr Binding said: "Why should we allow them to do something here which they aren't allowed to do there? It's ridiculous. At 11.30pm a lot of people are in bed and these are scheduled flights, which they have

INFRATIL'S JOBS FIGURES

- Air traffic controllers: 3
- Fire-fighters: 12
- Load masters: 6
- Aircraft handlers: 14
- Warehouse operatives: 10
- Cargo officers: 12
- Total airport jobs: 57
- Airline/freight forwarder jobs: 55
- Indirect/induced jobs: 300
- TOTAL: 412**

never had before. It will be every night."

Mr Binding says the plans should be subject to a planning application.

He said: "That would have to take account of the effect it will have on people."

"If I want to build a house, the process takes account of disturbances to neighbours and that's what should happen here. We need to know just how much noise will be created. People are entitled to be told."

Thanet council leader Sandy Ezekiel said: "We have to take tough decisions at times."

"It's encouraging that major airlines and industries are looking at Thanet now, which is what we wanted when we said we were open for business."

An extraordinary meeting of the full council is to be held tomorrow (Thursday) at its offices in Cecil Square, Margate, to discuss a variation to the Section 106 agreement.




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Election hopeful admits she might have broken planning rules

Apology from Tory in 'illegal' signs row



BAD SIGN: Parliamentary hopeful Laura Sandys has promised to tackle the issue of two huge fixed posters that have been set up by roadsides

TORY parliamentary hopeful Laura Sandys has apologised "unequivocally" over two giant signs promoting herself.

The signs have angered district councillor Mark Nottingham, who claimed that planning rules were being ignored.

Local Conservatives had erected them to raise Ms Sandys's profile in the isle. One of them is in Canterbury Road East and the other in Haine Road. Cllr Nottingham says that council rules state when there is not an election campaign in process, planning permission for such signs is

■ BY TOM BETTS

needed. He said: "I read the planning agendas and anything from Laura Sandys or the Conservatives would have leapt out at me, but I haven't noticed anything."

Council officers are investigating. Cllr Nottingham wrote about the matter on his weblog, saying the signs can distract drivers from paying attention to the road.

He wrote: "With icy conditions and heavy snow on the roads, you don't need any distractions when driving, but that's not something

Laura Sandys seems to have thought of. She has put two large roadside advertising boards in farmers' fields."

He added: "The matter has been reported to Thanet council and officers are looking into this potential breach of the law."

"I hope Ms Sandys will demonstrate rapidly that she has complied with all aspects of the law."

Ms Sandys, who will take on sitting Labour MP Steve Ladyman in the marginal Thanet South seat, said: "It has been brought to my attention that the posters might have contravened planning. I apologise unequivocally

"I understand permission can be requested retrospectively, which we are doing.

"However, we also understand there is another way of meeting planning requirements much more speedily. My colleagues and I did not know that the posters needed to be put on a moveable vehicle rather than directly into the ground."

"We will be replacing them as soon as possible with posters on wheels. Those we don't have suitable vehicles for will be removed."

"We rely on volunteers, so it may be a few days before all the posters are changed. I apologise to anyone who has complained and will ensure they are changed as soon as possible."

Gateway party

A FAMILY party to celebrate the first anniversary of Thanet Gateway Plus will be held in Margate Library on Saturday.

Free activities on offer between 10am and 1pm in the Cecil Street building will include face-painting, card-making and story-telling, plus a children's colouring competition.

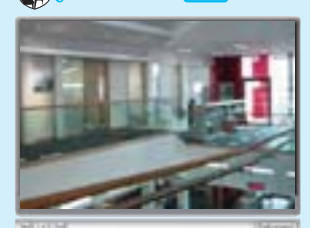
Gateway Plus brings together Kent County Council and Thanet council services, along with information from voluntary and community groups. Thanet's Gateway Plus is open from 9am until 6pm on weekdays, with late-night opening until 8pm on Thursday evenings.

It is also open on Saturdays between 9am and 5pm.

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Tour the reopened Ramsgate Library. Search 'library'

Love in the air as Cupid takes aim at isle romantics

LOVE rides into Thanet for Valentine's Day, with events across the isle.

At Westwood Cross shopping centre, a free party will be held on Saturday, with the chance to win romantic gifts.

Prizes being offered by retailers include a massage at Fusion, diamond earrings from H Samuel, chocolates from Thorntons, a £30 voucher to spend at jeweller Design 29, a box of Body Shop products and a Valentine's hamper from TK Maxx.

From noon, shoppers can enter the Love Is In The Air competition by writing messages to their partner on a label attached to a balloon.

The balloons will be tied together and at 1.30pm Invicta FM DJ Neil Kefford will release them at random. The people whose labels flutter to the ground will win a prize.

Other events include a Valentine's Day Massacre quiz night with the Broadstairs and St Peter's Chamber

of Commerce. A quiz for teams of four to eight, the fun gets under way at 7.30pm at Park Hall, Broadstairs, on Friday.

Tickets are £5 and available via 01843 864256 or at Malcolm's, 91 High Street, Broadstairs. Fancy-dress is optional, but there is a prize for the best.

At the Belgian Bar in Ramsgate, a Balkan belly burlesque boudoir is billed as "a fusion of belly dance and burlesque eccentricity" with Balkan beats and boudoir lounge music.

It runs from 8pm to midnight on Saturday. Meanwhile, the G Casino at Westwood is holding an Anti-Valentine's night on Friday from 7.30pm.

For the ticket price you will receive a cocktail, exclusive use of two roulette tables, tuition and a £5 gaming chip.

DJ Andy Walker will be spinning party tunes and anti-love songs. Tickets are £10 and available by phoning 01843 579361.

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Minister meets isle movers and shakers

THE Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce welcomed MP Jonathan Shaw to the isle last week.

He visited companies in Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs on Tuesday as part of his responsibilities as Minister for the South East.

BSW Timber Systems, Claridge Upholstery, Margate Harbour Arm, Mach Associates and the Royal Sands development in Ramsgate all featured on the itinerary of the Labour MP for Chatham and Aylesford.

In a question-and-answer session at the Thanet Chamber's HQ at the Kent Innovation Centre, Mr Shaw responded to issues raised by Frank Thorley, of Thorley Taverns; Hugh Gage, of Silent Gliss; Dr Fiona Sherriff, of Margate Harbour Arm, and many of the other members gathered.

MP raises glass to fair tipping policy

PUB chain Thorley Taverns has signed up to the Fair Tips Charter.

The scheme aims to share staff tips equally and to cut down on employers claiming the tips for themselves.

Thanet South MP Dr Steve Ladyman congratulated owner Frank Thorley for signing up to the charter.

He said: "It is wrong that some businesses don't pass tips on to their staff and some don't even pay the national minimum wage and use tips to top up their wages.

"Thorley Taverns has a policy for passing on all its tips to its staff and Frank Thorley jumped at the chance to sign the Fair Tips Charter. Well done, Frank."

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The perennial dredging problem at Ramsgate harbour. Search 'dredging'

Flats could come tumbling down after officers' report

COUNCIL officers have recommended that a new block of flats in Cliftonville be pulled down after the developers appeared to ignore the approved design.

The officers made their recommendation to the planning committee on Thursday last week.

The development at 1-3 Lewis Crescent on the seafront contains 29 flats.

The flats were built on the site of a hotel that was ravaged by fire in 2005.

The decision on whether or not to pull down the flats has been complicated by the fact that people have started to move into them.

Thanet council planning committee member Clive Hart says the decision is one of "the hardest I've ever had to make" and that he feels he has been put "between a rock and a hard place".

He spoke at last week's meeting and attended a site visit the next day.

He said: "Since the fire, several years have passed and we are now in a difficult situation.

■ BY TOM BETTS

The report explains that the developer has clearly built a different building from the one that had permission.

"However, if the building is demolished, it will leave an enormous gaping hole in a prime location which is part of the renewal area.

"We've learnt that the building even has residents. I don't know what implications that may have for other council departments, but it adds yet another appalling dimension to this issue."

He added: "I've shown the report and its recommendation to a number of local residents to gauge opinions and many say the property that's been built is completely out of order and should be demolished.

"Quite rightly, they say we need to send a clear message to developers."

Cllr Hart is now asking serious questions of the planning department.

He said: "Who on Earth was monitoring the build?"

However, the council denies it is responsible for monitoring the building work.

A spokeswoman said: "Councils are not required to monitor the progress of building works. However, where it comes to our attention, either through members of the public or other departments, that work is not being carried out in accordance with planning permission, then we will take the appropriate action."

A final decision on the flats, which were built by Parkholme Ltd, will be taken at the next planning committee meeting, on February 18.

Council leader Sandy Ezekiel said: "The responsibility for building in accordance with planning permission lies with the developer.

"The council will always investigate complaints and that's what we did. Our building control team were monitoring the work, but it's important to remember they are there to ensure the developer complies with building regulations.

"The plans and conditions that are approved by planning are not notified to building control, nor are they used as the basis for the inspections."



DID YOU SEE FIRE START?

Police are appealing for people who saw a fire at a Margate housing complex last week to contact them.

The blaze destroyed three houses and a block of four flats at Windmill Court in Millmead Road on Wednesday, January 28.

Large parts of the area in Margate were sealed off and fire-fighters from across east Kent were drafted in to bring the blaze under control.

Det Sgt Claire Munday and her team have established with fire investigators that a number of areas were set alight deliberately.

Thanet council buildings officers deemed the properties unsafe and what was left had to be demolished. No one was hurt.

House-to-house inquiries have been conducted and information is still being gathered about the circumstances leading up to the fire.

Anyone who can help the detective team is asked to phone Det Sgt Munday at Margate police station on 01843 231055 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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'Staffies' left out in cold as dog-owners fail to cope

THE growing number of Staffordshire bull terriers on the streets has led to local councils urging pet-owners to think before they buy and breed the dogs.

The message comes from three east Kent councils, including Thanet. More of the dogs, also known as 'staffies', are ending up on the streets.

The breed is seen as a status symbol by many people, courtesy of its aggressive reputation.

A kennel that takes dogs from Thanet, Shepway and Dover districts has 22 of the animals waiting for new homes.

Out of the 334 dogs taken in during the last 12 months, 104 were staffies and only 47 of these were claimed.

Among the 13 at the kennel are two 'long-termers' - a female affectionately called No

■ BY TOM BETTS

Ears because her ears were illegally cropped and a Staffordshire cross called Lully Boy - who have been at the kennel for nine months.

The picture in east Kent reflects a growing national problem and Staffordshire bull terriers top the 'unwanted dog' lists.

Margaret Todd MBE from the Lord Whisky Animal Sanctuary at Stelling Minnis has 10 staffies needing homes.

She says that some will remain at the sanctuary, which has a policy of not destroying unwanted animals, for the rest of their lives.

She said: "Several are not going anywhere. They are taking up valuable kennel space and we are turning other dogs away because we don't have enough room."

Although Lord Whisky runs a veterinary clinic

offering reduced bills for people on benefits, Margaret says that not enough owners have their dogs spayed or neutered.

"Some people look on breeding as an easy way of making money, but they don't think about what is going to happen to the puppies," she said.

"Many end up with people who haven't got the lifestyles to cope with them."

Shirley Tomlinson, Thanet council's cabinet member for commercial and environmental services, said: "Genuine dog-lovers must be horrified by the statistics. These unwanted dogs had a home at some stage, somewhere that should have been a home for the rest of their lives."

"A dog is forever, not whenever, and people need to think very carefully before taking on a puppy or a dog as it's a lifelong commitment."

• *Anyone who believes they could take on a Staffordshire bull terrier and offer it a good home can phone 01304 823133.*

Panto star crocked

A BROKEN shoulder has been blamed for the cancellation of a pantomime.

The St Peters Players have called off their production of Dick Whittington which was due to start on Monday.

The planned two-night run was halted as one of the show's producers and stars fell and broke her shoulder.

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TOM'S BUS A REGAL EFFORT

Tom Boardman is a man with any eye for life's small details.

The 78-year-old Birchington resident has just put the finishing touches to a labour of love that has lasted a decade.

He finished his scale-model replica of an AEC Regal bus just last month.

It is entirely hand-crafted out of sheet metal by Tom, a former sub-postmaster and Army projectionist.

Even the tiniest of details, from moving windscreen wipers, wing mirrors, door handles and lights, have been painstakingly put together, most of them functioning parts.

The upholstery that adorns every seat in the bus is made from one of his wife's old skirts

His love of crafting things by hand developed during the war when he built a Jeep that was brought by an American GI who was dating his sister at the time and appreciated his efforts so much that he wanted to take it home.

Tom has been making things ever since and said: "It was a good feeling to finally finish it. I wanted to get as close to the original bus as I could - it was a model I was fascinated by and feel I've got some way there."

He added: "I want to make another Jeep now, like the one that started it all."

Pensioner dies after falling into fire

AN elderly Ramsgate man has been found dead with severe burns after falling into a coal-fire he lit to beat the cold.

Ronald Taylor, 86, was discovered by police on Wednesday last week after a call from a friend of the pensioner who had not seen him for a few days during a spell of bitter weather.

Mr Taylor, who was single and had no children, had burns to his body.

A post-mortem examination has been held, but details are not being released until the coroner's inquest.

A police spokesman said detectives were treating the incident as a non-suspicious

death - and do not believe there was any third-party involvement.

A police source added: "This is an extraordinarily tragic case - it appears Mr Taylor had collapsed at his home then fallen into the fire."

"It is horrific to think of how he died."

Mother-of-two Hannah Watkins, 31, who lives close to Mr Taylor's home, said: "It has been absolutely freezing cold this week, so I am not surprised he put the fire on - but what's happened is just so sad."

"I felt sick when I was told what had happened. He always seemed like a nice chap and had friends he used to see regularly."

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Saturday 4th April

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Sunday 5th April

The Enemy in Concert

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Essence of Ireland

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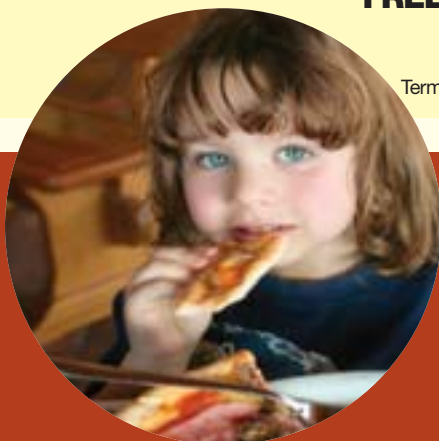
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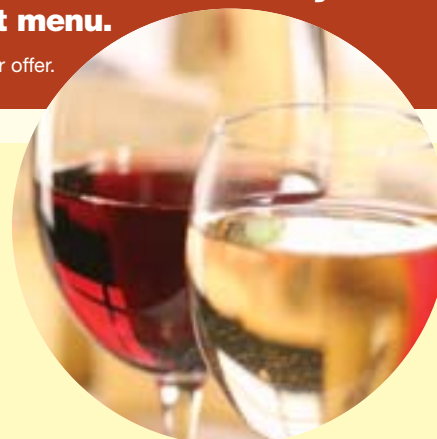
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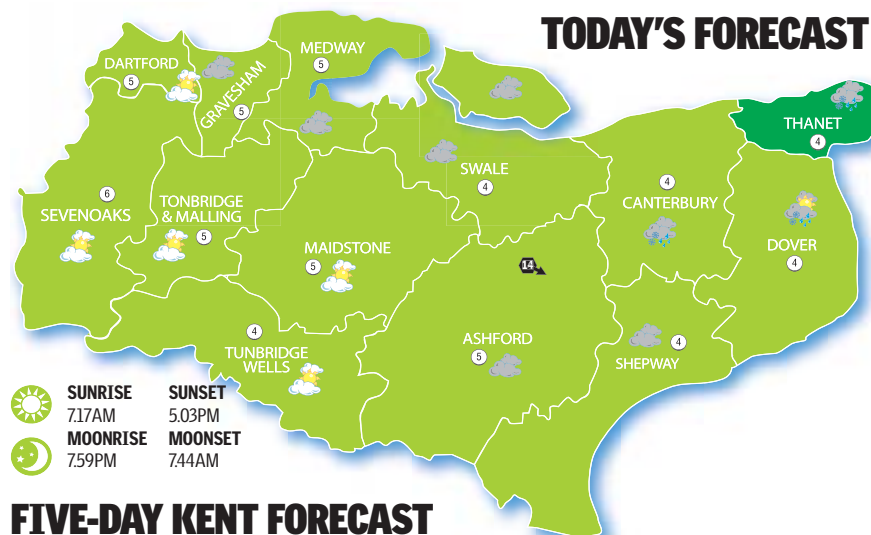
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:00pm	5.9m
	Sunday	4:37pm	5.6m
Dover	Saturday	2:09pm	6.3m
	Sunday	2:47pm	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:10pm	7.3m
	Sunday	2:51pm	6.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:39pm	4.8m
	Sunday	3:17pm	4.6m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:50pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:26pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:59pm	5.2m
	Sunday	4:31pm	5.0m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	5°C	Madrid	12°C
Athens	12°C	New York	12°C
Barcelona	13°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	11°C	Rome	12°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	5°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	15°C	Vancouver	6°C
Hong Kong	23°C	Warsaw	1°C
Las Palmas	18°C	Wellington	21°C

Changes proposed for council cabinet

THANET council's cabinet is being reshuffled. Under the proposals, some of the existing portfolios will be split in two.

This includes the regeneration and economic development portfolio, with deputy leader Roger Latchford taking charge of economic development, regeneration, the Margate Renewal Partnership, asset management, strategic planning and the Port of Ramsgate.

It is thought chairman John Kirby could be taking charge of the other half of the portfolio.

This would make him responsible for planning enforcement, planning applications, licensing, land charges, Ramsgate Royal Harbour Marina and general estate management.

The changes will be voted on at a full council meeting on Thursday, February 26.

Forever

Council leader Sandy Ezekiel said: "It will give us more resilience, particularly when people go on holiday, and there's also an element of planning for the future, as none of us will go on forever."

The council says the changes will "bring the cabinet portfolios in line with each of the council's five main service areas and follow a senior management restructure".

For Cllr Kirby to take on his new post, he will have to resign his role as chairman.

Other proposed cabinet positions include:

- Martin Wise: Finance, to include human resources, policy and performance, procurement and audit.
- Jo Gideon: Customer services, to include IT services, revenues and benefits and the Thanet Works programme.
- Zita Wiltshire: Community services, to include council housing, strategic housing, housing need and homelessness, housing renewal, private sector housing, community safety and environmental health.
- Shirley Tomlinson: Environmental services.

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	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	6°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	Gravesend	5°C	5°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Canterbury	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	4°C	Maidstone	5°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C
Chatham	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C	Ramsgate	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
Dartford	5°C	5°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	Rochester	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C
Dover	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Sevenoaks	3°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
Faversham	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C
Folkestone	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Tonbridge	5°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	5°C
Gillingham	6°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	5°C	Tun Wells	5°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	5°C



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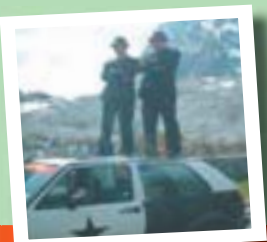
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QUESTION & ANSWER

TOM PRICE



Q How long have you been in your current role?

A I joined Westwood Cross as general manager eight months ago. The centre, which is owned by Land Securities, is now about to celebrate its fourth birthday and continues to go from strength to strength. It's currently one of the largest providers of jobs in Thanet, with some 1,800 people employed in the retail and leisure businesses on site.

Q Are you a native of the area?

A Yes, I was born in Ramsgate and went to school at Chatham House. I then moved away for 30 years to pursue a career in retail before coming back to Thanet and I am now happily settled in Broadstairs.

Q How has the credit crunch affected trade at Westwood Cross?

A Trade remained buoyant through the latter part of last year and at Christmas, with the majority of retailers and leisure outlets reporting strong sales. We're surprised how well business is holding up in the face of economic doom and gloom. But there are testing times ahead.

Q What are your plans for the complex this year?

A To continue to provide our thousands of visitors with a great venue. Our wide range

of big-name stores, including TK Maxx, Debenhams, Next, Top Shop and M&S, our gym, casino, bingo club, multi-screen cinema and restaurants ensure that there is something for everyone throughout the day and into the evening.

And we are delighted to be working with numerous community organisations, schools, dance and theatre groups to build an exciting programme of events and entertainment for all our visitors.

A large part of our success is because Westwood Cross is known to be a safe, customer-friendly environment. We are continuously developing our range of customer services.

For example, we recently introduced our Little Shopper Stay Safe scheme, giving visitors to Westwood Cross with young children peace of mind that we have excellent systems in place to cope with children becoming separated from their carers.

To keep up with all our events, special offers and job opportunities and to let me know your suggestions for new activities, you can visit our new website at www.westwoodx.co.uk

Q Do you think that the complex has had a negative effect on the trade in the local towns?

A The arrival of Westwood Cross has obviously had a negative effect on some shops and businesses in the local towns. Having said that, major retailers were already pulling out of the high streets before the new centre

arrived, and shoppers were disappearing in increasing numbers to Canterbury and Bluewater. Town centre regeneration and reinvention surely has to be the priority now for local businessmen and councils.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A I'm a big football fan. I have been a Manchester United supporter since the days of George Best. I still have a share in a season ticket and go to see them play as often as I possibly can. I love golf and play regularly as a member at North Foreland Golf Club. I also enjoy skiing, fishing and foreign travel.

Q What are your favourite places in Thanet?

A My favourite places in Thanet are North Foreland Golf Course and the beaches of Stone Bay, Viking Bay and Dumpton Gap, where I walk my dog – his name is Stan and he's a rescue dog with a great personality. I love the sea. It's one of the reasons I came back home to Thanet.

Q If you had one wish for the area, what would it be?

A I guess this is a wish that many of us share in Thanet, namely that there could be adequate finance combined with the imagination, determination and leadership to regenerate the town centres.

Q & A

Tom Price, general manager of Westwood Cross shopping and leisure centre, speaks to Tom Betts about testing economic times, plans for the shopping centre and why he came back to Thanet after 30 years

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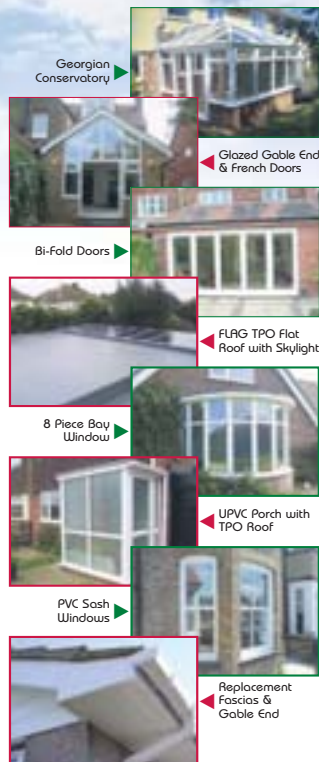
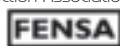


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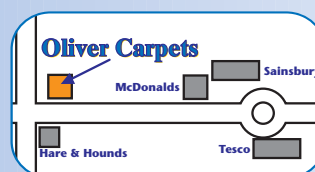
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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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MEP's bile at cruel international trade

EURO MP Sharon Bowles wants international pressure against the multi-million pound trade of bear bile to be stepped up.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has supported an online petition against the cruel practice of bear bile extraction in many Asian countries.

Bear bile is highly lucrative, with a single gram fetching up to £14 on the global market. The trade is thought to be worth £60 million a year in China alone.

However, leading animal rights organisations, including the charity Animals Asia, have condemned the practice.

Kent MEP Sharon Bowles has been running a campaign on her website and participated in Moon Bear Fun Day with Animals Asia.

She said: "The Government has done all that is legally possible to ban the trade of bear bile within the UK.

"This is a great success and highlights the hard work of organisations like Animals Asia.

"However, this vile practice has not been banned in many Asian countries and reports indicate the trade is still widespread.

"The Government and the European Parliament must continue to put pressure on these

■ BY NICK AMES

authorities to bring a global end to the trade of bear bile."

Dave Neale, the UK director of Animals Asia, added: "In China, bear farming continues to incarcerate thousands of bears in despicable conditions.

"Animals Asia are working with the people and the Government of China to close down bear farms, rescue the bears to our China-based sanctuary and promote the many herbal and synthetic alternatives available to consumers.

"If we can stop the demand for bear bile we can ultimately free the bears and end this barbaric practice once and for all."

The trade exists due to the prescription of bear bile by doctors who practise traditional Chinese medicine.

The substance contains ursodeoxycholic acid, which is believed to reduce fever, protect the liver, improve eyesight, break down gallstones, and also act as an anti-inflammatory.

Only small amounts of bear bile is used in traditional remedies. About 500kg is used by practitioners every year.

But wildlife experts say more than 7,000kg is being produced, with the surplus used in products such as wines, eyedrops, and general tonics.



BEARY DEDICATED: Sharon Bowles, MEP for Kent, recently took part in Moon Bear Fun Day to help raise awareness of the cruel trade in bear bile which still takes place

A fashionable way to support children

FUND-raisers for Demelza Hospice Care for Children have organised a special event for ladies who lunch.

It is being staged to raise cash for the Bobbing-based hospice's work in caring for terminally ill children and their families.

Starting at noon on Thursday, April 2, at Eastwell Manor in Ashford, guests will enjoy a welcome drink where the opportunity will be given to view jewellery, handbags and clothing.

A three course lunch will be served half an hour later and between courses models from Cranbrook and Sevenoaks will be displaying various outfits on the catwalk.

There will be a raffle and the opportunity to purchase the fashion items on display.

Tickets are £40 per person with a maximum of ten per table, however there are a limited amount of spaces.

Laura Carey, area fund-raising manager for the hospice said: "I would like to thank Eastwell Manor for letting us use their facilities for our Spring Lunch and Fashion Show.

"This will be a great event and not only will it be enjoyable, it is a great way to support Demelza and raise awareness of the fantastic work it carries out."

Training to be a hot topic for castle visit

FIRE-FIGHTERS from across Kent will take part in a large-scale training exercise at Hever Castle.

As well as being an opportunity to practice their skills, the event on Sunday, February 22, will also test the historic building's salvage plans.

The three-hour exercise will involve fire-fighters from Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, Westerham, Tonbridge, Rusthall, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Seal and Sittingbourne.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's urban search and rescue team will also be involved, as well as crews from Surrey.

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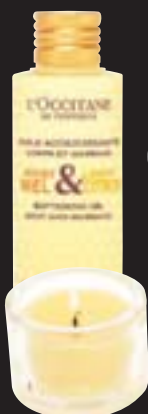
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Month-long respect campaign embraced by Kent Police

Our 'gay-friendly force' in kids' essay contest

■ BY NICK AMES

KENT Police are asking children to write an essay as part of a month-long celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history.

The county force, recently recognised as one of the most gay-friendly employers in Britain, has a series of events throughout February.

These include exhibitions, a quiz, a celebration dinner-dance and the competition, which has an under-14s category.

Youngsters are asked to write an essay explaining what this month's slogan 'All different, same respect' means to them.

It also has a 15-17 category and an 18-plus section, with the winners receiving a £25 book token and a Kent Police shield.

Kent County Council is also backing the activities, which include a month-long exhibition at County Hall.

A seminar has been held providing a brief overview of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history. The dance took place on Sunday and featured a five-course meal. The history quiz takes place at Lenham Community Centre on Thursday, February 26.

Kent Police are one of the most gay-friendly employers in Britain, according to the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2009, which researches attitudes towards sexuality.

The force was ranked fourth – up 22 places



RAINBOW COALITION: Kent Police's support for the gay community and minorities has earned praise

from last year – because of “a proactive lesbian, gay and bisexual support network, which meets regularly with the Chief Constable and other chief officers to discuss relevant issues”.

The group also helps with recruitment and retention and can provide specialised knowledge in specific areas of policing.

But the celebration is not without its critics. A spokesman for the Campaign Against Political Correctness said she felt “the police

can get a bit obsessed about this sort of thing”.

“It's all part of a bigger picture and we wouldn't say anything if there was just, for instance, one event a month,” she said.

“But a whole lot together is a bit much. You have to ask, what good does this sort of thing actually do? And is any money being spent on this? If so, is it the right way to spend money allocated for law enforcement?”

• Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Haunting images to make us think

A HARROWING new £3.2 million THINK! campaign highlights the life-wrecking consequences of speeding for drivers and their victims has been launched by road safety minister Jim Fitzpatrick.

And the county's police are backing the campaign with ‘zero tolerance to speeding’.

The new message is that if you kill someone while speeding you will be tormented for ever.

In the new TV advert a driver is haunted by images of the child he has killed – seeing him in the mirror; through the window of a bus and while in the park with his son.

Mr Fitzpatrick said: “More than 700 people were killed in 2007 in accidents where someone was driving too fast – that's two people every day of the year who didn't go home to their families.



“The last THINK! campaign on speeding highlighted the fact that if you hit a child at 30mph there's an 80 per cent chance they will live, but if you hit them at 40mph there's an 80 per cent chance they will die. It's 30mph for a reason. We want motorists to consider the consequences of speeding; what life is like for the driver who kills because they are in a rush.

“I hope this powerful campaign will get drivers to kill their speed before it's too late.”

Department for Transport figures for 2007 show that in the South East 265 people were killed or seriously injured on 30mph roads where excessive speed was reported as a contributory factor.

A Kent Police spokesman said: “We take a zero-tolerance approach to speeding. We use a combination of enforcement and education, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to drive home the message that we expect people to obey the law. The consequences of dangerous, irresponsible and antisocial behaviour on the roads can be horrendous.”

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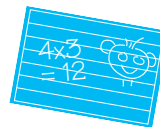
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BREAK TIME

Who would like to review the Doctor's book?

BOOK reviewers from St Peter-in-Thanel School have landed an out-of-this-world job.

They are the first to cast a critical eye over the latest print adventure of timelord Doctor Who. Five pupils were selected to read a story called The Eyeless, by Lance Parkin.

They received review copies and their thoughts about the story will appear on the BBC's Doctor Who website.

New Doctor Who books are published three times each year and the website invites volunteer reviewers.

Year five teacher and literacy co-ordinator Phil Irwin entered the school and when it was selected, all children were given the opportunity to apply to review the book.

They had to write a 50-word entry to say why they should be among the chosen five.



TWO OF A KIND: Charlie Lincoln and Hereson School pupil Jack Paine share a common footballing heritage

Generation game gives centenary a touch of flair

■ BY TOM BETTS

THERE are 70 years between them, but Hereson School soccer ace Jack Paine and former schoolboy star Charlie Lincoln share a pride of playing for both their school and Ramsgate FC.

Charlie, 86, from Ramsgate, is helping the school mark its centenary this year. His story forms part of a celebration being put together by archivist Vic Todd.

Central midfielder Jack, 14, and veteran Charlie both represented Ramsgate and agreed the best way to play football was with passing flair and skill, not the kick-and-run approach.

Charlie, who was selected to play for Kent, said: "We had a cracking little team at Hereson School and at Ramsgate. We played stylish football, a little like the Arsenal team of today, all flowing moves and clever passes.

"I loved my soccer and used to keep fit by running from Ramsgate to Minster and back."

Mr Todd said: "Charlie's story is part of the big jigsaw puzzle we are putting together using artefacts, memorabilia and stories to get a real feel for how Hereson developed over the last century.

"It is a big venture and we need the help of families who may have items about our school tucked away in their homes."



YOUNG TALENT: Charlie Lincoln in 1936, aged 14

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yourthanetblogger

This week's writer rues the fact he didn't get to play the 'I'm working-from-home' game



It's snow fun any more when the party ignores these parts

LAST week felt a little bit like there was a party everyone else was invited to, except for those of us in this part of the county.

The party was a snow extravaganza and the bulk of the UK put on their warm dancing shoes while we twiddled our thumbs and simply watched from afar and wondered what might have been.

While everyone else west of Maidstone seemed to be having to dig themselves out of their homes and then strapping tennis rackets to their shoes to reach their garden gate, the east of the county was left wondering what all the fuss was about.

Granted, if you live on high ground round these parts, then there was a decent helping of the white stuff to keep you entertained. But for the rest of us, the star of this party – the heavy white cloud-like one everyone wanted to spend some quality time with – did no more

than pop his metaphorical head around our door, say 'Hi' and then hot-foot it to where he really wanted to be... which appeared to be everywhere but here.

Because while, yes, there was some snow earlier in the week, by the end of that downfall on Monday – just as our hopes were soaring – rain gatecrashed the party just as it was warming up and turned our fun into a damp mush.

For us on the isle there was no road chaos. There were no schools slamming shut their doors for the duration. There were no snowmen living to fight another day.

And nor, most importantly and most annoyingly, was there any chance of avoiding work for a day on the grounds of it "simply being too dangerous to try and get in – tell you what, I'll work from home and certainly not take out a sledge and immediately head to the slopes the second I put this phone down". And I resent that.

It's like the same way employers factor into your wages that you're likely to have a handful of days sick during the year. I also like to

think that there's a one- or two-day allowance for inclement weather.

So I've been robbed of a couple of days of work-free fun. Sorry, I mean, working-from-home hardship. But the snow issue is one which is disappointing me now pretty much on an annual basis. Because we just don't seem to get a decent deluge any more.

Granted, if you've picked up this paper at the station and are heading west, you'll probably be passing people still living in igloos and carving ornate creatures out of the snow as a living.

But it appears if you live within a short drive of the coast, you can kiss goodbye to toboggan high-jinks or sticking a carrot on a snowman in a rude and amusing manner.

And if that's not enough to drive down already deflated house prices, I don't know what is.

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Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City - 1981 FA Cup Final

The 1981 FA Cup became only the tenth final in history to finish in a draw, and to a replay it went on a damp Wednesday evening in April. But the fireworks were well and truly lit that night as the nation was treated to a cracker and a goal of sublime quality by Ricky Villa as Spurs clinched the FA Cup for the sixth time in their history.



Chelsea v Leeds - 1970 FA Cup Final

The first time is always the sweetest, as Osgood and co triumphed over treble-chasing Leeds United after the two teams had battled it out over 240 minutes of absorbing football.

Relive it all over again in this specially-produced programme featuring extended highlights of the first match and the full 120 minutes of the Old Trafford replay.

Arsenal v Manchester United - 1979 FA Cup Final

Regarded as Wembley's finest finale, this was where the best was saved until last. With United competing in their third final of the late 70s and Arsenal looking to avenge their shock defeat to Ipswich the previous year, the stage was set for a heavyweight showdown between two of the country's most prestigious teams in the last final of the decade.

It was a magnificent final to end an incredible decade, and now you can see it all over again, with the full match in its entirety and post-match interviews from the Wembley tunnel.



West Ham v Arsenal - 1980 FA Cup Final

This time around it was Second Division Hammers' turn to be the underdogs against Terry Neill's FA Cup holders Arsenal, making their record third successive final appearance.

On a day that Wembley basked in the May sunshine, West Ham United outshone Arsenal, and for the second time in five years the FA Cup headed back to the East End.

Relive the day all over again as the Hammers outgunned the mighty Gunners to achieve one of the most sensational cup final victories in the history of the famous competition.



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yourletters

YOUR LETTERS

Tories' mixed messages over airport expansion

There seems to be some disparity between what the Conservatives are saying nationally about airport expansion and what they are saying locally.

Talking about the Government decision to approve Heathrow's third runway, shadow transport secretary Theresa Villiers described it as "a bleak day for our environment and for those of us that care about safeguarding it".

She warned: "A third runway at Heathrow would inflict devastating damage to the environment and to the quality of life of millions of people, and the Conservatives will fight them every step of the way."

She highlighted the negative effects that would result from the third runway: "The Environment Agency has warned pollution from it would increase the risk of serious illness and early death around the airport."

"MPs as far apart as Reading and Greenwich have expressed concern about the impact of aircraft noise from Heathrow on their constituents."

She added: "222,000 extra flights a year will massively boost Britain's carbon emissions."

I live right under the Manston flight-path and would put up with a fair amount of extra noise if I thought it would lead to serious economic regeneration. However, if it's going to have a serious effect on my family's health, well, that's another matter altogether.

If Thanet North MP Roger Gale feels airport expansion at the expense of people's health is OK, I can only say it's time he had a serious rethink. Or perhaps he thinks Ms Villiers is spreading scaremongering twaddle – whatever, he can't have it both ways.

Up until now, my stance is that Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Thanet council's contaminated-land officer need to get together and decide if it's safe and practical to expand the airport with it being situated on the drinking water aquifer.

The biggest problem with Manston airport is that it's right in the middle of the underground water reservoir we can't do without and if we get a fuel spillage on the green part of the airfield, the contaminated soil has to be dug out before it soaks down and permanently damages the aquifer.

The airport has a digger standing by for this purpose. Without prompt action, it's no agriculture in Thanet and no Thanet Earth, lots of hosepipe bans in the summer and increased water bills.

The digger contingency plan isn't adequate for larger planes; in fact I doubt it is adequate for the current traffic.

In the case of an air accident thought to be caused by criminal or terrorist activity, or where people are killed, it seems unlikely the police or air accident authority would allow them to dig up the evidence on the site.

Without an answer to this one, I can't see how there can be any airport expansion.

Michael Child
Ramsgate

Tourism would fly away

I fail to see how 11 more night flights a week is of benefit to the residents of Ramsgate.

For the hundreds of houses under the flight-path, this will result in interrupted sleep due to excessive noise with no potential benefits to the community at all.

When councillors are discussing the future of Ramsgate and Thanet, why do they constantly disregard the tourist potential of the area? The royal harbour and sandy beaches should not be ruined by aircraft constantly flying over.

Sarah, Ramsgate
(comment from www.yourthanet.co.uk)

Don't wreck our town

So Cllr Ezekiel says "up to 200" jobs may be created. Based on what – Infratil telling the council what it wants to hear?

'British jobs for British workers'/'Thanet jobs for Thanet workers' – now, which unelected PM said one of those things much



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to his regret? Listen, Cllr Ezekiel and other councillors, we don't want Ramsgate wrecked by night-flying 747s now or in greater numbers in the future. Understand?

Ramsgate is not yours to mess up for this and future generations of residents.

Ged, Ramsgate
(comment from www.yourthanet.co.uk)

Soaring number of queries

Open letter to Thanet council:

On Thursday, February 12, you vote on a proposal by Infratil to allow 'out of hours' flights which will enable the airport to win business from a major European air freight company. This is a pivotal moment for all of Thanet's residents, particularly those who live under Manston's flight-path.

Before you vote, please take into consideration the following information and questions you may wish to ask yourselves:

- Noise measurement under the current agreement has been secretive, unpublished and not explained to the people of Thanet. Should you be investigating its effects and publishing the results prior to signing off later flights by the noisiest aircraft?

- Infratil has submitted a masterplan which the council is reviewing carefully before responding. What review is taking place and why have the electorate not been informed? Why cannot this review continue until completion? Surely commercial aspects are the sole responsibility of private companies? What are the repercussions if the review continues to its normal conclusion date? When is this expected?

- Infratil is asking for an extension in the mornings and evenings, leaving six and a half 'quiet' hours. In the 11 months up to December, 57 night flights had already taken place at Manston. Is it wise to change the agreement to the airport's benefit when current boundaries have been broken more than once a week?

- Most children under the age of 13 would be in bed by 10pm each night. Allowing the airport to fly beyond this period is subjecting those children who live under the flight-path to disturbed sleep. Is this something you truly support?

- Varying job numbers have been presented in the press release. Why is this? If the council is going to a vote, surely other factors have to be taken into consideration, such as noise and air pollution, but these are not mentioned. If job creation is so important, why bother with a planning application? Just say a number in the thousands?

- Recent events in Lincolnshire prove jobs cannot be guaranteed for local people, yet every press release that comes from Thanet council talks of jobs being created, while pointing out Thanet as a deprived area. This is misleading and could cause problems for you should jobs not materialise for local job-seekers. What jobs are on offer? What will they pay? When will they materialise? What experience will be necessary? What steps are being taken by the airport and council to train the isle's long-term unemployed to take advantage of any jobs on offer?

- Ramsgate main sands, the Royal Sands development, Harbour Parade, Royal Harbour, Harbour Street/King Street/Queen Street, Nelson Crescent, Ramsgate library, Clarendon House grammar school – these highly important places will be subjected from 6am to 11.30pm flights at under 1,000ft, hundreds of times per day should expansion be in line with the masterplan. Agreeing to the change will be a precursor to this.

I hope these questions and the information provided are helpful when making your decision.

Steve Higgins
Stop Manston Expansion Group, Ramsgate

Think about our children

Increasing the aircraft using Manston will have a damaging effect on our schools.

Noise-induced hearing loss among children is a serious concern impacting on speech, cognitive, social and emotional development.

Any sensible parent recognising the effects noise has on a child's learning will move their children to safer schools. Why should only children of the rich escape?

To save our schools, airport expansion must be stopped. Our future depends on it.

Gabriel Pierre, Ramsgate
(comment from www.yourthanet.co.uk)

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Petition's a great idea

I wish Malcolm Kirkaldie well with his mayoral petition and enjoyed last week's front page of Yourthanet.

It's about time this place – the isle we all love so dearly – was given the opportunity to thrive, rather than continue to head up political blind alleys time and again.

The system we have clearly doesn't work – we seem to be stuck in the dark ages politically and a total rethink is desperately needed. The dead wood at Thanet council needs sweeping away – and fast.

If we install a system less open to abuse, more transparent and ending some of the cronyism that I feel dominates, then I'm all for it.

Even if Mr Kirkaldie's proposals don't work out, it's at least worth seriously thinking about how we can change things.

We can learn from the efforts of Gerry O'Donnell, who successfully led the campaign for a referendum on a Ramsgate Town Council, and we will all be able to vote in June.

I was sceptical that his plan would work when he first started to talk about it, but his efforts were rewarded in the long term.

Look at Broadstairs. It's the most successful of our towns in recent years and I put that down to the fact it has its own town council to protect the town's needs.

Action is needed and I applaud Mr Kirkaldie for the fact that, unlike so many others, he is willing to put his head above the parapet and test the

waters. Good luck to him.

Perhaps in three years' time, when we have a Mayor of Thanet, we will look back at last week's front page and remember when it began.

Oh, and if someone could come and collect my bins once in a while, that would be brilliant, too!

Charles Peters
Margate

Criminals to clean up

Regarding the front-page article of January 21, my suggestion is that community service should include organised clearing-up of litter and dog faeces from the beach and seafront areas.

Council staff are stretched in dealing with rubbish-clearing, and any extra support would help.

In addition, making criminals carry out a menial task like this will help to deglamorise crime on the one hand and earn respect from law-abiding citizens on the other.

Lionel Jermy
by email

Fairtrade? Not for us!

We need to support Thanet's farms and local business whenever possible. Forget Fairtrade – Thanet must remain a free-trade zone.

At this time of economic crisis, we need to put the interests of Thanet workers first.

Thousands of workers in the east of the county are likely to lose their

jobs over the next few months – we need to be fair to these people. What exactly is so-called Fairtrade doing to help dying UK industries such as the fishing trade, for example?

Many people in Thanet are finding it difficult enough to feed their own families; should they also be expected to subsidise the mistakes of Third World dictators of countries that have had their independence for decades?

It is more crucial than ever to support local workers and local producers – it seems that Fairtrade could be adding to the problem.

If we want to help Third World countries to increase their economic potential, it is necessary to do this through free trade, not through so-called Fairtrade.

Not even credit-crunch Britain gets a fair deal. One example is the socialist-dominated EU; its range of protectionist measures undermines global markets, not to mention ripping off the British taxpayer.

Hundreds of tonnes of food are destroyed each year to keep prices artificially high. Is it surprising those in the Third World get a bad deal?

Even the selected producers that receive a 'fair wage' through so-called Fairtrade are not guaranteed economic success. What is more, due to the nature of Fairtrade, it legitimises the protectionist policies of socialist countries.

It is these protectionist activities that appear to make Fairtrade necessary in the first place.

Rupert Thurgo
Ramsgate

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VISUAL COMEDY: David Caves and Jack Reynolds act as a variety of people, ranging from Irish country locals to female Hollywood stars

Two men and a play

Duo play 15 characters in this unusual Irish comedy

RURAL Ireland meets the glamour of Hollywood in the hit stage comedy *Stones In His Pockets*.

An array of colourful characters appears in this culture clash story about a movie production crew that decides to film in a quiet Irish village.

The local community is overwhelmed with excitement and the demand for extras, leading to lots of hilarious incidents and some tensions among the villagers.

What makes this award-winning play particularly remarkable is that the large cast of film folk and bemused locals is portrayed by just two actors. David Caves and Jack Reynolds play 15 characters between them, from two young Irish men dreaming of fame to the Hollywood diva who stars in the movie.

Caves revealed that with so many switches between characters, there is not much time to worry about forgetting his lines.

"It's fairly relentless and you don't

STONES IN HIS POCKETS

Tuesday, February 17
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



have time to indulge in much, which is good," he said.

"The costume changes are fairly minimal. There's not much set, really, and just a trunk containing several jackets and waistcoats that we change into, so the audience can see that difference and attach certain items to certain people.

"Sometimes it's so quick, the change is more of a physical thing."

The audience does need to pay attention as it does not have the luxury of several actors dressed in wigs and costumes to differentiate between characters. However, Caves has found that audiences quickly grasp the concept and find the unusual experience very interesting.

"I think the audience gets a lot of pleasure out of recognition of the characters," he said. "Sometimes it will get a laugh even before I speak,

just because I change the way I put my legs or something."

With such a variety of people to bring to life, Caves already has a couple of favourites among the large cast.

"I really like playing the Hollywood actress, people really respond to her," he said. "I also like Finn, who's a bit of a simpleton who goes on quite a journey."

Written by Marie Jones, *Stones In His Pockets* has won numerous awards, including the Laurence Olivier Award for best new comedy, and received three Tony nominations on Broadway.

"It sets out its stall really quickly as a light-hearted comedy, but it does have some quite poignant moments," Caves said.

"It's cleverly written. The author has juxtaposed the humour with quite a serious sucker-punch. It's great when you feel the audience is with you during those funny moments, then literally in seconds you are talking about something that's rather sad."

• Tickets cost £17.50/£15. Book at www.leascliffhall.org.uk, or phone 0844 8471776.



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U2UK

Saturday, February 14
West Coast Venue, Margate

FANS of Irish supergroup U2 will find what they are looking for when a top tribute band visits Thanet on Valentine's Day.

U2UK presents a musical extravaganza to mimic the excitement of a live U2 concert, complete with tailored light show, multimedia video projection and a massive sound system. Using several costume changes to re-enact key periods in the band's career, U2UK gives audiences the chance to experience a two-and-a-half-hour celebration of one of the world's biggest acts. U2UK fills venues all over Europe and last year played to crowds of up to 8,000 people.

Local rock band Captain Mildred will open the show, rocking the crowd with their



covers of hits by artists as diverse as Green Day and Kate Bush.

Tickets cost £10 for the concert only or £22.50 including a freshly cooked Afro-Caribbean meal, vegetarian and vegan options are

available. Meals must be booked in advance. To buy tickets call 07514 323889 or 07530 795612, email westcoastbar1@aol.co.uk or streetvoiceuk@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.westcoastlive.co.uk.

4 POOFS AND A PIANO

Friday, February 20
Margate Winter Gardens

DESCRIBED as 'more hairdresser than barbershop', 4 Poofs and a Piano are tinkling their ivories all over the country.

Keen to prove they are more than just Jonathan Ross's sidekicks, the popular house band from his BBC television show are bringing their brand of camp fun to Kent.

The band had a fairytale beginning – when three actors joined the London Gay Men's Chorus back in 2000, they decided to get together and try to earn extra money by singing. One of their members was a receptionist at London's exclusive Groucho Club and their first gig as a quartet was a slot in the annual charity show in front of an audience of famous faces.

A few days later they received a call inviting them to become the house band on Friday Night with Jonathan Ross. Global megastars such as Madonna and Will Smith have been welcomed by their dulcet tones and they have even more to offer.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15/£13.50. To book call the box office on 01843 292795/296111 or take a look online at www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



JETHRO

Thursday, February 19
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



WEST Country wag Jethro continues to sell out venues all over the country with his distinctive Cornish wit.

The cheeky comic has been delighting comedy fans for decades with his mischievous adult humour and tales of his renowned friends, Denzel Penberthy, Slipalong Trevaskis and Bill Pedureare. His last DVD, Live In Cuckoo Land, sold nearly 250,000 copies in the first two months of release and audiences cannot get enough of his hilarious live shows.

Jethro started his working life in the Cornish tin mines and trained to be a carpenter before taking up singing in pubs. When his voice dried up one day, he filled the silence by telling jokes and found these proved far more popular than his songs.

His career has gone from strength to strength since that day, though Jethro does not appear on television or radio a great deal, preferring to rely on word of mouth to attract audiences.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18/£17. Book at www.leascliffhall.org.uk or call the box office on 0844 8471776.

THANET LEISURE

Fun for all the family with Dick Whittington

PANTOMIME fun will brighten up Thanet's winter evenings as St Peters Players present Dick Whittington.

The family show will be at the Memorial Hall, High Street, St Peters, from Monday to Wednesday. Performances start at 7.30pm. Tickets, at £4, are from Pets Pantry in High Street on 01843 602303 or from the Thursday coffee morning held at the Memorial Hall.

Fantastical adventures on offer at storytime

DISCOVER enchanted kingdoms and magical fairytales at the Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs, on Saturday.

Storyteller Emily Parrish will transport her audience into other worlds with tales of unsolved mysteries. The show, at 2.30pm, is suitable for seven to 11-year-olds with their parents. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £4 for children and £15 for families. To book call 0845 2626263.

Pantomime to raise cash for good causes

POLICE officers swap pounding the beat for treading the boards in their annual pantomime this week.

The Police Panto – A Lad In Hot Water promises to be a hilarious family show based on Aladdin.

The show will run at the Theatre Royal Margate from Thursday to Saturday. Tickets cost £8/£6. To book call 0845 130 1786 or 01227 787787.

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Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or to the address on page 2, at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

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You can have standard Pentax single vision lenses in both pairs at no extra charge and now also a free scratch-resistant treatment in all lenses.

See www.specsavers.co.uk or in stores or visit your local branch in Margate's lower High Street.

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new range of footwear**

THE latest women's shoes are proving a hit at discount chain Matalan.

Its newest range is full of eye-catching heels and slinky boots.

Try on the brown leather low heel buckle boots for £45 or Western influenced fringe boots for just £15. Brogue high heel sandals in black from £10 and filigree court shoes in striking scarlet, also £10, are great buys.

Visit www.matalan.co.uk, or visit your local store in Broadstairs.

**Be warm and cool in
the new season's look**

NEW Look is promising new prices for a new season and its latest offers will have heads turning.

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Talented Mr Hoffman's in no doubt over film

■ BY ELLIE GENOWER

PHILIP Seymour Hoffman isn't giving the game away.

In fact, he's positively defensive over the question of whether his character, the modernising Catholic priest, Father Brendan Flynn, inappropriately interfered with a young male student in his new film *Doubt*.

"Is he guilty or not? That question wouldn't be a question that I'd ever answer," the actor says. "I would never ever tell a living soul anything about that. It's of no interest to you or to the viewer. I didn't sit in a chair and say 'Hmmm, I wonder if he's guilty or not'."

The point of *Doubt*, says Philip, are the grey areas. Was Father Flynn inappropriate or wasn't he? Stone-faced parish school principal Sister Aloysius, played by Meryl Streep, is convinced he is, along with suspicious nun Sister James (Amy Adams).

"You wouldn't assume someone was guilty without having any evidence," he says. "Whether he's guilty or not is ultimately one of many things. The hot topic is you can assume his guilt without knowing anything."

The 41-year-old actor was attracted to exploring not only the themes of the movie, based on a play by John Patrick Shanley who also directed the film, but the subject of change in the Catholic church.

In 1964, when the film is set, the church was undergoing a dramatic reformation. As an advocate of making the church more tolerant and accessible, Father Flynn is put in direct conflict with Sister Aloysius.

Usefully, Philip was able to turn to elements of his own past to prepare for the role, as he was brought up a Catholic, albeit in a different world to the one audiences see in the film.

"I did communion but never went to Catholic



NO DOUBT: Philip Seymour Hoffman's not letting the scent of another Oscar distract him from fatherhood

school," he says. "I never did confession. I went to church, so I know what goes on but wasn't the typical Catholic."

Father Flynn is the latest in a string of memorable character parts for Philip, who got his big break in the 1992 Al Pacino movie *Scent Of A Woman*. Since then, he's appeared in the likes of *Boogie Nights* and *The Talented Mr Ripley* and he took home the best actor Oscar in 2005 for his portrayal of Truman Capote.

Doubt has already won him critical plaudits and a Golden Globe nomination. But he doesn't seem bothered about the Oscar buzz,

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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not least because he has other things on his mind. His girlfriend, costume designer Mimi O'Donnell, gave birth to their third child, Willa, last October.

Despite the strained subject matter, initial doubts and the intense shoot, Philip claims filming *Doubt* was fun.

"I had a good rapport with all of the cast," he says. "As dramatic as the film is, it was great fun. It was very serious, you know, the work was, but ultimately the minute we could have fun, we did. We had a lot of laughs and enjoyed each others' company."

"But I'd never be able to row with Meryl like we do in the movie," he adds, smiling.

"I would never want to get into a heated argument with her!"

DOUBT Certificate PG

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Month of treats introduce Quarterhouse to the scene



■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE county's newest entertainment venue kicks off in style in March – with a month-long programme of soloists, bands and DJs.

Quarterhouse's dedicated Music Month features a host of fresh sounds and rising stars across all genres, moving seamlessly from indie and dance to hip-hop and jazz.

Kent singer/songwriter Nick Harrison will headline the Folkestone venue's opening MM night on Friday, March 6, with support coming from the likes of Seven Story Down, Floors and Walls and Kids Love Lies.

MOBO-award-winning hip-hop star Sway will take the mic the following night. Support comes from DJ 279, Afrikan Boy, Bubbz, Nate Glace and Backbeat Junkie.

A silent disco – the cool kids' current craze – will be held on Friday, March 20, followed by 3 Daft Monkeys on the Saturday.

Twice BBC Jazz Award nominees The Robert Mitchell Trio will bring the month to a close on Saturday 28, performing covers of million-selling mainstream acts such as Radiohead and Massive Attack.

Festival manager Roberta Spicer said the MM line-up was purposefully broad, saying: "We've worked hard to programme the best in fresh young talent, as well as some of the UK's top acts to ensure Folkestone and Quarterhouse are put on the map for live music."

"Music Month gives us the chance to gauge audience reaction to different music and to showcase the facilities at Quarterhouse."

• For more information, visit www.monthofmusic.co.uk



ALL SORTS: Sway (left) and Nick Harrison are two of the great acts on offer in a month of varied music

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TUNE IN: Take a look at the launch of Jon Woode's new album



SOUNDS GOOD: Hear Lucy Kitt play her song Laurel Canyon



THE UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 Shelta - Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 2 D-FINITIVE - Space (Tenterden)
- 3 Kayley Weller - A Long Drive Home (from Deal)
- 4 Luke Jackson - Am I Good Enough for You (Canterbury)
- 5 Luna Park Rescue - Ground Floor Power (from Tunbridge Wells)

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

 **THE GREEN GREEN GRASS**
BBC 1, 8.30pm, Thursday

 **EARLY DOORS**
BBC 4, 9.30pm, Tuesday

PEOPLE often say good things about BBC1's *The Green Green Grass*, but truth be told I'm not sure why.

'Successful spin-off' is one term often used to describe this show and 'light comedy' is another.

I can see why the first applies – it certainly has viewers far beyond what many would ever have estimated – but the comedy part is stretching it a bit far.

Focusing on Only Fools and Horses wide boy Boycie's post-Del Boy move to live in the country, the laughs are not exactly free flowing.

On the original show, and seen in bits and pieces, the character worked well, making up the great cast of odd-balls and everymen that made *Only Fools* one of the best-loved shows of its generation, but there is nowhere near enough material for a whole show and series.

The jokes are as predictable as Britain grinding to a halt in a snow storm and the acting pitiful.

In stark contrast to that, the BBC has dipped into its archives and decided to repeat one of its lesser-known gems.

The excellent *Early Doors*, now on BBC 4, owes a huge debt to the Royle Family.

A good few of the actors who have appeared in that sit-com appear here and, dripping with that same Mancunian humour, this show always deserved to be much bigger than it actually was.

Indeed Craig Cash, dippy Dave from its sister show, is one of the writers here. Proceedings revolve around life at



PULL 'EM IN: BBC 4 is currently re-showing the little-known comedy series *Early Doors*

The Grapes, a backstreet boozer in the rain-sodden city, run by the tight-fisted Ken.

James McAvoy also crops up in an early pre-Hollywood role as Liam, the well-meaning Irish boyfriend of the landlord's daughter, Mel, the apple of Ken's eye.

However, it is the two work-shy policemen Phil and Nigel who steal the show.

Never ones to let a criminal get in the way of supping ale in the pub's back room, the put-upon pair end each session with their mantra "crime won't crack itself" before stumbling out the door, CB radios blaring with requests of their whereabouts.

Just two series and a total of 12 episodes were ever made and BBC 4 isn't that far into its run of the series so there's time to tune in for yourself.

It's sad that while *Early Doors* disappeared off our screens with no fuss, *The Green Green Grass* is prime-time fodder on BBC 1.

Some justice, eh?

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
LITIGATION involving an inheritance or community property could wreak havoc with your personal life. Is it easier to walk away from this fight? After all, possessions are only things while memories are forever. If you can't let this matter rest, take a calm and rational approach.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
ARGUMENTS with a youngster could erupt. They want more freedom, but you're worried about their security. Sure, there are a lot of dangers out there, but you've got to teach them how to cope. Shielding them won't give them the skills to deal with the big, bad world.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
NO matter how hard you work it may be difficult to save money. That's because you have so many outgoings. When this happens you need to consult a financial manager who can help you consolidate bills and lower your interest rates. There's no shame in getting help.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
IT may be hard to find common ground with someone younger. You had very different needs when you were young. Stop giving them what you think they require and ask them about their needs instead. Be sure to encourage their interests, too, even if you can't understand them.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
SOMEONE'S behaviour is driving you crazy. Resist the urge to heap criticism on their shoulders. Therapy may be necessary for them to turn a corner. If your loved one refuses to get help, you may have to keep your distance. Although you care, sticking around will only encourage their antics.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
FAMILY may not support a desired career move. Usually you don't bother about other people's approval. This time it hurts to think your relatives don't believe in your abilities. Perhaps the reason they're angry is because they think you're shirking your responsibilities.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
IT'S hard to trust someone who seems erratic. Actually, they just have a different set of values from yours. By taking the time to study their movements you will see a method to their madness. Unlike you, your friend has no interest in upholding the status quo.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
RESIST the temptation to compromise your principles for the sake of harmony. Making an unpopular choice will be difficult personally, but will ultimately help the greatest amount of people. By standing firm and keeping a cool head, you will prevail and keep your integrity.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
WORRY and overwork could take a toll on your health. If you want to exorcise your subconscious demons, get out a pen and some paper. Describe the problem you're grappling with and then work out the worst case scenario. You'll realise your fears are probably unfounded.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
NEGATIVE thinking could prevent you from reaching the top of your game. If you're going on a job interview, present yourself as an enthusiastic problem solver. When asked about your previous positions, talk about them in a good light. The more upbeat you are, the better your chances.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
FEELING lonely in a big crowd is an unsettling sensation. It's not that you want to be an outsider. It's just the people around you have different priorities. It may be time to seek greener pastures. If that means finding a new job, so be it. The one you have may not be stable, anyway.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
KEEP an open mind when dealing with somebody who has extreme views. Although some of their observations are way out and wacky, it's important to respect people's opinions. Resist the urge to convert them to a more centrist position. A tiger will never change its stripes.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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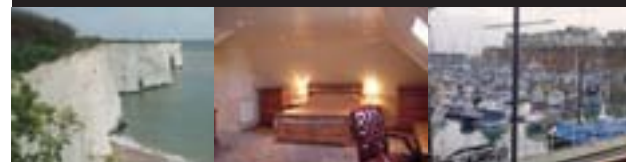
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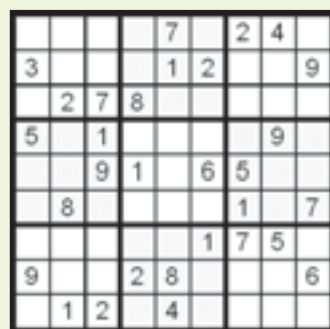
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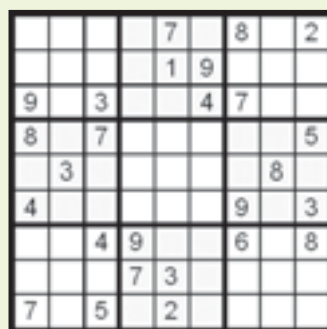
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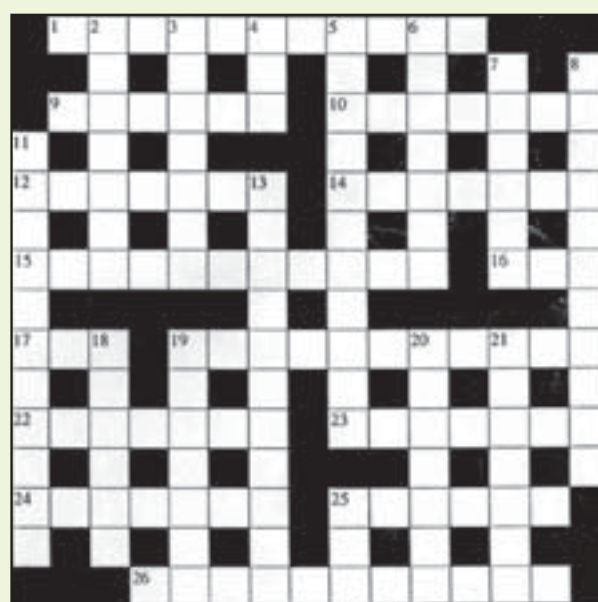


CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Sandwich taller than a bus? (5-6)
 - 9 Shot bird on day one (6)
 - 10 Swiss lake plant (7)
 - 12 Dry after being exposed outside (4-3)
 - 14 One getting in shed about to regret arrogance (7)
 - 15 Jesting a bit in all seriousness (6,5)
 - 16 Tree used in model-making (3)
 - 17 Up-to-date novel (3)
 - 19 Shift the pub's cask and shift responsibility (4,3,4)
 - 22 The glass could be falling (7)
 - 23 Part of kettledrum Linda found on glacial mound (7)
 - 24 Regroup, nothing is lost from regional reorganisation (7)
 - 25 Band strip (6)
 - 26 The one asking the questions to cover one watching TV (11)
- #### DOWN
- 2 Fowl to feed itself will behave in a domineering manner (7)
 - 3 Account for old agonising sensation round top of leg (7)
 - 4 Flop up and down (3)
 - 5 Cruel and chilly at the centre? (4-7)
 - 6 About to get involved with awful unrest and form a hard coating (7)
 - 7 Economic measure of low degree (6)
 - 8 Drunk producing cheerful celebration (11)
 - 11 Study point in time producing combination of circumstances (11)
 - 13 New confidence having taken out another policy? (11)
 - 18 Deep cavity at last for marsupial (6)
 - 19 Passenger Penny taking charge about to be unwell (7)
 - 20 Could be equal, it isn't extreme (7)
 - 21 Relax grip on louse struggling (7)
 - 25 Priest prevented from appearing (3)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 That can be defended (11)
- 9 Truth (6)
- 10 Use bath (anag.) (4,3)
- 12 Woollen yarn (7)
- 14 Royal attendant (7)
- 15 Incitement (11)
- 16 Hasten (3)
- 17 For (3)
- 19 Vegetable stew (11)
- 22 Lettish (anag.) (7)
- 23 Dry spell (7)
- 24 Capital of Georgia (7)
- 25 Quadraped (6)
- 26 Rationalist (11)

DOWN

- 2 Dig up (7)
- 3 Tornado (colloq.) (7)
- 4 Winged insect (3)
- 5 Shortened (11)
- 6 Town in Co. Antrim (7)
- 7 Stiffener (6)
- 8 US brig found afloat in North Atlantic in 1872 (4,7)
- 11 Yam (5-6)
- 13 Fix a limit (4,3,4)
- 18 Derivation (6)
- 19 More ostentatiously rich (7)
- 20 Unrealistically hopeful (7)
- 21 Baggage (7)
- 25 ___ Wednesday (3)

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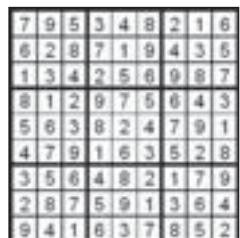
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Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No73

ACROSS: 1 Flag-waving 6 Oppo 9 Ghoul 10 Unco 11 Quiz 13 English Heritage 14 Foregone 16 Plaint 18 Beckon 19 Aromatic 22 Duplicate bridge 24 Veal 25 Jest 26 Hit on 27 Late 28 Oxtail soup. **DOWN:** 1 Fig-leaf 2 Among 3 Pluralist 8 Ooziest 12 Field marshal 15 Rock-plant 17 Green tea 18 Bedevil 20 Clean up 21 Bayeux 23 Ditto.

QUICK SOLUTION No74

Luggage 25 Ash.
the line 18 Origin 19 Ritzier 20 Utopian 21
8 Mary Celeste 11 Sweet-potato 13 Draw
4 Fly 5 Abbreviated 6 Lisbon 7 Starch
Free thinker. **DOWN:** 2 Unearth 3 Twister
Drought 24 Thill 25 Animal 26
16 Hit 17 Pro 19 Ratahouille 22 Thistle 23
tea 12 Worst 14 Equerry 15 Exhortation
ACROSS: 1 Justifiable 9 Verily 10 Bush

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Have a bonza time down under

■ BY KIM PILLING

'BEAUTIFUL One Day – Perfect the Next' may not be quite as forth-right an advertising blurb as the 'So Where The Bl**dy Hell Are You?' slogan famously chosen by Tourism Australia, but it's still a confident statement.

It very accurately describes the Great Barrier Reef state, and is therefore an appropriate phrase selected by Queenslanders, who certainly treated me to nine days of whirlwind action and adventure.

Our journey, a 'tour of eccentric Queensland', took in bush walking, rainforest trekking, pumpabiking (a sort of human-powered hydrofoil), reef snorkelling, wining, dining and stand-up paddle-surfing, among other things.

We began in Cairns, gateway to the Great Barrier Reef in the far north of the state.

A short walk from our hotel led us to the town's reef fleet terminal and a full-day catamaran cruise to Michaelmas Cay.

We enjoyed a lazy afternoon snorkelling in the turquoise-blue sea surrounding the tiny coral island and then took a seat on a semi-submersible vessel which provided stunning views of the reef, not to mention the giant sea turtles. Throw in a tasty buffet lunch on board and at a total cost of £48 that's bonza value.

Speaking of bonza, a 'swaggie' – an original Aussie bushman – awaited us later that evening at Cairns Night Zoo for some billy tea and damper. Torches were at the ready for a nocturnal view of some native critters.

We got to pat the wide-awake koalas, fed hungry kangaroos around a campfire and got up close, but not too close, and personal with



BEAUTIFUL: Meet the animals in all kinds of stunning settings when you take a tour of wonderful Queensland

some venomous spiders, snakes and crocodiles.

Then next morning was the real thing and a two-day rainforest and rock art 4WD safari. We headed for an outback camp at Jowalbinna, Aboriginal for Dingo's Ear, in the Quinkan region. Aboriginal occupation here dates back more than 30,000 years, with startling images of spirits, animals and human figures adorning its sandstone shelters.

After 'slumming it' in the outback, we headed back into the rainforest for a luxury night's stay at Voyages Silky Oaks Lodge at the foot of the Mossman River Gorge, popular with honeymooning couples. It's a beautiful resort.

Next was a trip south to the trendy coastal resort of Noosa, but not before popping into Australia Zoo – home of the late, great Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin.

Irwin and his wife Terri took over manage-

ment of the zoo in Beerwah in 1992 and today it resembles something of a shrine to the naturalist and TV personality who was fatally pierced by a stingray barb two years ago.

Next it was on to the Sunshine Coast, where the sophisticated set go for their hols in Noosa, before heading to Fraser Island – the largest sand island in the world and a truly wondrous place, home to a sprawling rainforest, more than 100 beautiful freshwater lakes and even a shipwreck.

We spent the night at the four-star Kingfisher Bay resort, where we had a bushtucker taste 'trial' in the restaurant. Several glasses of Cabernet Sauvignon and the stunning sunset view sweetened my palate. We then ended our tour at Brisbane, the state capital.

Is Queensland really 'Beautiful One Day – Perfect the Next'? Mate, it's a cracker.

FACT FILE: AUSTRALIA

Time difference	+11 hours (GMT)
Capital	Canberra
Climate	Variable
Population	21.4 million
Currency	Aus dollar (approx \$2.2 to £1)
Religion	Christian
Language	English

History

Kim Pilling flew to Queensland as a guest of Tourism Queensland and Austravel with JAL, which offers return flights London to Brisbane from £1,125.

Virgin Blue return flights Brisbane-Cairns start at £150. Qantas flight Fraser Coast-Brisbane starts at £60.

Austravel offers two weeks discovering the best of Queensland – with a two-night stopover in Tokyo – starting at £2,940, including return flights and room-only accommodation. Airport transfers not included unless specified. Valid for travel Sept 1- Dec 4. Austravel reservations: 0844 412 4620 and www.austravel.com

Tourism Australia accepts enquiries online only at www.australia.com



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During the cruise, relax and watch the world go by, enjoy great food and entertainment, and venture ashore at the numerous ports of call. You can also choose from a comprehensive selection of optional shore excursions taking-in: **Portofino, Pompeii, Athens, Ancient Ephesus, Mount Etna** and more.

At the end of the cruise we disembark after breakfast in Marseilles and take the TGV to Lille or Paris where we join the Eurostar to St Pancras, London, arriving early-to-mid evening.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Thousands more could be losing their homes

THERE could be 75,000 home repossession this year, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

But there are concerns that this figure could be an under-estimate, following research by MoneyExpert.com.

The independent comparison website has revealed more than 900,000 homeowners have missed at least one mortgage repayment in the last six months.

This represents one in 12 homeowners. Just a year ago, only one in 25 of the people holding the 11.8 million outstanding mortgages in the country missed a payment.

MoneyExpert.com considers that missing a mortgage payment is as serious as it gets and is a clear signal a homeowner's finances are at breaking point.

More than 1,000 homes are being taken back by lenders every week, according to the Financial Services Authority, despite interest rate cuts and new Government schemes to help struggling homeowners.

Unless banks and building societies pass on the bank rate reductions to borrowers, mortgages are still too expensive for some people.

Prices show hope but it's still too early to tell

THE average price of homes across the country rose by 1.9 per cent in January, according to the Halifax.

This news is sure to bring a boost to the housing market, which has been under severe strain in the last few months.

However, the building society's analysts warned that one month's figures did not indicate an end to the downward trend in prices, which they say have dropped 17.2 per cent in the past year.

The average house price has now reached £163,966, according to the Halifax.

Martin Ellis, chief economist at the Halifax, said his bank's latest survey did not necessarily mean the property market had reached a turning point after last year's dramatic slump in mortgage lending, completed sales and prices.

"It's far too early to make any conclusion," he said.

"The figures are going against the trend and our survey shows that if you compare the last three months to the previous three months then prices are still down significantly, by about five per cent."



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TAKING A CLOSER LOOK: As measures are taken to try to boost our property market, buyers are finally taking an interest, but they are not all from close to home

International interest as discounts draw buyers

■ BY NICK AMES

BUYERS have shown renewed interest in the property market in the first weeks of this year, according to the largest independent home-finding group in the UK.

County Homesearch carried out research looking at trends in the market for the start of 2009.

The website has seen a large increase in the number of potential buyers registering for its services in the last two weeks, according to its analysts.

The weakness of the pound could also be playing a role, with County Homesearch managing director Jonathan Haward claiming UK residential housing was now seen as a bargain for anyone earning dollars or euros.

He said: "As well as indigenous interest, we have also witnessed a substantial increase in registration from buyers across the world."

"With discounts of up to 40 per cent on some property due to last year's price falls and some lenders offering best-buy mortgage rates of below four per cent, UK house prices currently look like a bargain to foreign buyers."

"We have quite definitely seen an increase in buyer enquiries and as we are right at the sharp end of any housing mar-

ket transactions we predict continued growth in buyer activity."

County Homesearch believes this news reinforces the findings of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which reported that "buying interest is now at levels not seen since 2006".

Mr Haward added: "Those buyers who have no need of a mortgage can rely on us to negotiate some very real bargains, and even if house

prices dip by another five to ten per cent, we can see some excellent house price growth starting in 2010. In five years' time today's buyer will be sitting on a substantial profit."

Estate agents in Kent have also stated that the market is getting better and have encouraged mortgage lenders to be more flexible in their approach to making loans – boosting the market by encouraging potential purchasers.



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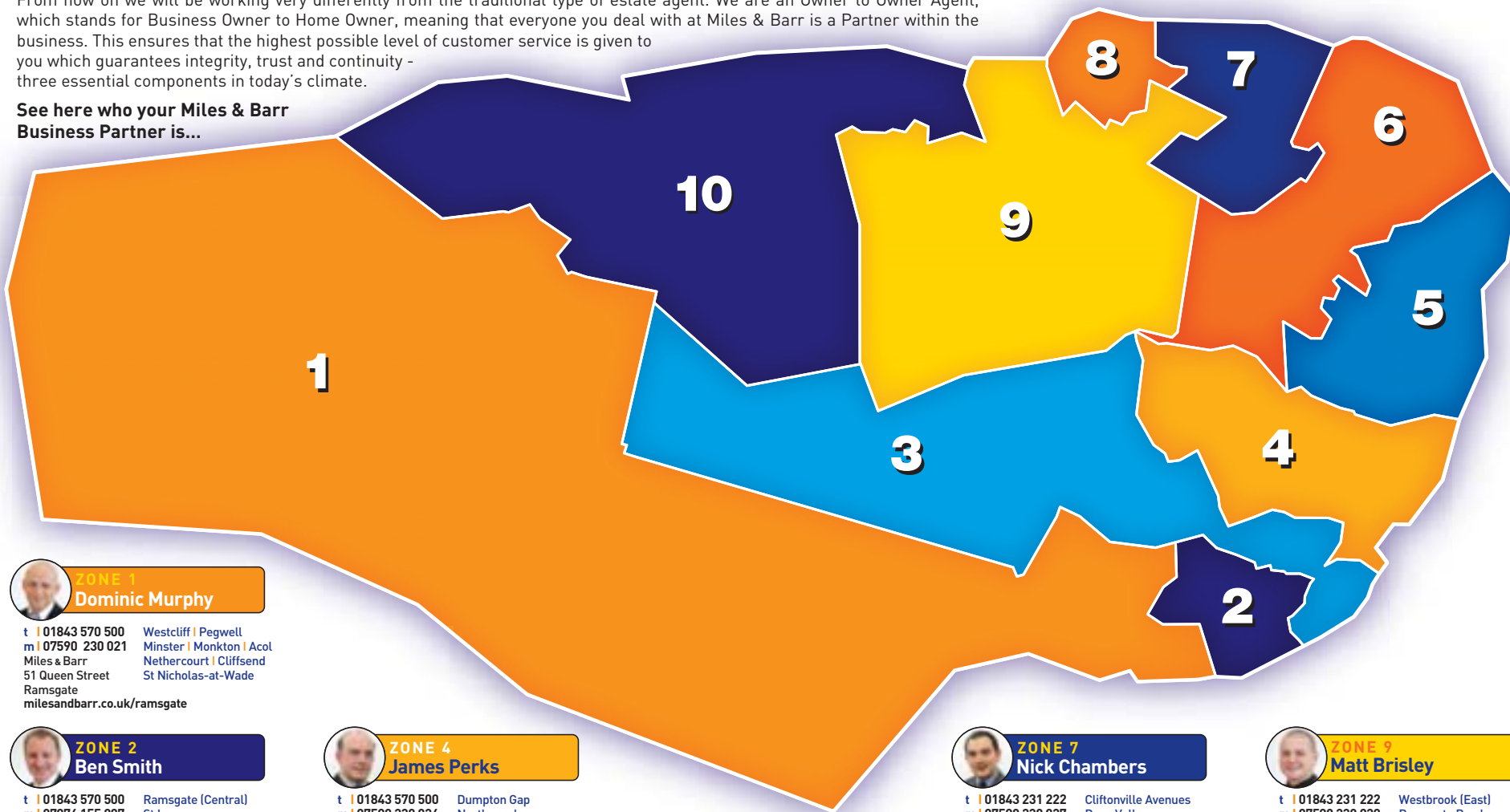


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- Two Bathrooms



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- 16ft D/G Conservatory, Garage
- Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen



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- 22ft Lounge, 18ft Bedroom
- Spacious Kitchen, No Chain



KINGSGATE £695,000

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- Cinema Room/Games Room
- Gallery/Observatory Room



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- Central Location



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- 80' Rear Garden



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- Rural Location Cul De Sac Position



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- Bungalow
- Landscape Gardens No Chain



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- In Need Of Refurbishment
- No Onward Chain



RAMSGATE £169,995

- Three Bedrooms
- In Need Of Modernisation
- Off Street Parking And Garage



BROADSTAIRS £164,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge / Dining Room
- Off Street Parking



MARGATE £84,950

- Two Bedrooms
- Freehold Property
- Old Town Margate



MARGATE £74,995

- 1 Bed Flat
- Refurbished
- Allocated Parking No Chain



MARGATE £99,995

- 3 Bedroom Maisonette
- Central Margate
- Share Of Freehold, No Chain



CLIFTONVILLE £224,995

- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Attractive Rear Gardens
- OSP And Garage



CLIFTONVILLE £249,995

- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Off Road Parking And Lovely
- Garden



CLIFTONVILLE £64,995

- Move Straight In !!
- 1 Bedroom Flat
- Close To Local Amenities



WESTBROOK £129,995

- Three Bed Family Home
- In Need Of Modernisation
- ISunny Back Garden



WESTGATE £114,995

- Walking Distance From St Mildreds Bay
- 2 Bed Flat Conversion



WESTGATE £119,995

- Ideal Starter Home
- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Enclosed Rear Garden



GARLINGE £199,995

- Stunning 5 Bed Detached
- Sought After Location
- Immaculate Throughout



MARGATE £289,995

- Stunning 4-5 Bed Period Home
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- Close To Train Station
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- Modernisation Required



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Ramsgate OIEO 59,995

- Studio Flat
- Separate Bathroom
- Separate Kitchen
- Town Centre Location



Birchington £80,000

- One Double Bedroom
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- Ground Floor



Ramsgate £109,995

- Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory, GCH, DG
- Rear Garden, No Chain
- Popular Location



Margate £117,500

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge And Dining Room
- Kitchen And Bathroom
- 30Ft Garden



Birchington £125,000

- 1St Floor Maisonette
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Garage, Private Garden



Birchington £134,995

- Purpose-built Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Distant Seaview, Balcony
- Garage En-block, 150m from beach



Broadstairs £139,995

- Oh So Convenient!
- One To Work On!
- 2 Beds, 1 Recep
- Garden, Chain Free!



Ramsgate £145,000

- 2 Bedrooms, Garden
- DG, CH, Chain Free
- Close To Superstores
- Modernisation Required



Margate £149,995

- Oh So Convenient!
- 3 Beds D/glazed
- Garden, Close To Q.E.Q.M.
- Must Be Viewed!



St Peters £159,995

- 3 Bedrooms, DG, CH
- Open Plan Living, Chain Free
- Off Street Parking
- Approx 100Ft Garden



Ramsgate £172,500

- Three Bedrooms, Off Street Parking
- 100Ft Garden, DG, CH
- 16Ft Conservatory
- Two Workshops, Must View!!!



Ramsgate £174,995

- 3 Double Bedrooms, OSP
- 19Ft Lounge, 18Ft Dining Room
- Stunning Bathroom
- 1/4 Mile To Sea Front, Chain Free



Margate £178,000

- 23Ft Lounge, Kitchen/diner
- Conservatory, Off Street Parking
- Two Bathrooms, Close To Town
- Close To Qeqm Hospital



Ramsgate £179,950

- 2-3 Bedrooms, Parking, Garage
- Stunning Kitchen, Great Bathroom
- Excellent Garden, DG, CH
- Popular Location



Birchington £184,950

- Semi Detached Cottage, Bathroom
- 2 Recpts, 2 Double Beds, Cellar
- 100Ft Rear Garden, Osp For 3 Cars
- Shower Room, Utility Room



St Peters £192,500

- Semi Detached 3 Bedrooms
- Cul De Sac Location, No Chain
- Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room
- Private Rear Garden



Westbrook £199,995

- The King Of All Bungalows
- 3 Beds, 2 Recep.
- GFCH, DG, Chain Free
- 30Ft X 40Ft Garden, Garage, Drive



Margate £200,000

- Superb Sea Views! Cliff Top Location
- 8 Beds, 2-3 Recep
- 2 Bathrooms, Enclosed Garden
- TLC Required, Must Be Viewed



Westbrook £217,995

- 4 Bedrooms, DG, CH
- D/s Shower Room, Garage, OSP
- 1/2 Mile To Sea Front
- 1/2 Mile To Station



Westbrook £249,995

- Three Bedrooms, OSP
- Detached Bungalow, Refurbished
- No Chain, Modern Kitchen
- Sought After Location, Must View!!!



Broadstairs £249,995

- You Wont Be Disappointed!
- 3 Beds, One Reception Room
- Modern Kitchen, DG, GFCH
- 70Ft Rear Garden! Must Be Viewed!



Westgate £284,995

- Five Bedrooms, Bathroom, En-suite
- 70Ft Rear Garden, Seaside Location
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Garage, OSP



Westbrook £299,995

- Five Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Four Reception Rooms
- Garage And Osp



Cliftonville £339,995

- Three Double Bedrooms
- 10Ft Cellar, Grade Two Listed
- OSP For Five Cars
- Conservatory, Sought After Location

Ramsgate Office

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01843 851777

Cliftonville Office

131 Northdown
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BROADSTAIRS £650PCM



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- New Bathroom • Central Location.

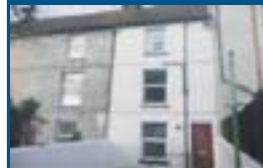
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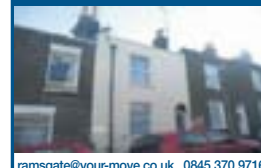
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MOTORS NEWS



Alfa holds its value and topples Mini's top spot

CONFIRMING our favourable impressions of Alfa Romeo's new MiTo, this head-turning supermini has topped the BMW Mini as number one for resale value.

Market watchers at CAP say that over a year/10,000 miles, seven MiTo versions should beat Mini values, the MiTo 1.3 JTDM diesel retaining 81 per cent of original price – five per cent more than the closest Mini. Even after three years/60,000 miles the MiTo 1.3 JTDM in Veloce trim tops the charts, retaining 48 per cent of original price.



Good motoring highs and lows for new Ka

FORD'S Ka is set to be ridiculously cheap to run – now underlined by lower insurance groups and a better values forecast when used.

Cover starts at 1E – the lowest rating available – for the Ka Studio, with all others rated 2E, including the new diesel Zetec model.

Used motor market watchers at CAP also predict residual values for the second generation Ka – priced from £7,945 when new – will be 14 per cent better after three years/60,000 miles.



Deals and prizes with Chrysler trio this month

FEBRUARY visitors to Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge dealerships will leave with something desirable.

Test driving any model can bring a night in a UK luxury hotel and buyers get a seven-night UK hotel break for four and the chance of a week in the USA.

Deals include Jeeps from £239/month and the new seven-seat Dodge Journey MPV (pictured) for even less or, via a PCP, from £199/month. The big Chrysler 300C (from £27,595) also now comes with free luxury upgrade until the end of March.



JUST THE TICKET: The Kia Carens may not be the best-looking midi-MPV on the market but it is keenly priced and well equipped with a five-year/unlimited mileage warranty

Kia 'bus' passes holiday road test without moans

ROAD TEST KIA CARENS

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

the brilliant Eden Project – a near 100-mile round trip for us.

That has to be a tribute to the Carens' space, easy access and all-round comfort; the car rides well enough whether heavily or lightly laden, with little 'MPV' roll or wallow, though it could never be described as sporty to drive.

Our car was fitted with the excellent 138bhp 2.0-litre turbodiesel (from £14,055) – there are also 130bhp 1.6-litre and 142bhp 2.0-litre petrol options – with the low down pulling power needed to easily move up to seven plus luggage. It is smooth and worked well with the automatic 'box (£1,000 extra) on the test car – the Sports Mode manual selection proved useful for Cornish gradients and lanes.

Admittedly, the Carens is not the best-looking midi-MPV. Kia says it injected 4x4 'outdoorsy' styling, but slab sides and a low rubbing strip just make the car look baggy.

Nevertheless, it is keenly-priced and well-equipped with a five-year/unlimited mileage warranty.

Unlike its forbears, it achieves this without being crudely executed or cheaply finished inside – a good buy for tough times.

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07 57 MATIZ 1.0 SE SDR Metallic Silver, A/C, PAS, E/Windows	£4995	£495
05 55 LACETTI 1.6 SX AUTO Blue, Air Con, Alloys	£5995	£1000
07 07 KALOS 1.4 SX SDR Silver Metallic, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£5995	£1000
08 58 MATIZ SE AUTO Yellow, Alloys, PAS, Electric Pack	£6995	NIL
08 58 AVEO 1.2 LS SDR Black Metallic, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking	£7995	£1000
07 07 LACETTI 1.8 CDX 4DR AUTO Silver/Green Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, Multi CD	£7995	£2000
08 08 LACETTI 1.6 SX ESTATE Silver Metallic, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking	£8995	£1000
08 08 AVEO 1.4 LT SDR Silver Metallic, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows	£8995	£1000
08 58 TACUMA 1.6 SX MPV Grey Met, A/C, E/Windows	£9995	£2000
08 08 EPICA LS TD Grey Metallic, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£11995	£1000
07 07 CAPTIVA LT TO AWD 7ST AUTO Black Met, A/C Alloys, E/Windows, Parking Sensors	£14995	£2500
08 58 EPICA LT TO AUTO Silver Met, Climate Cruise, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD	£16995	£1000
08 58 CAPTIVA LS TO FWD Silver Met, A/C Alloys, E/Windows	£16995	£1000

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	OUR PRICE	CASH BACK
04 53 GOLF 1.6 FE Black, Air Con, Alloys	£6995	£1000
04 54 GOLF 1.6 SE Black, Air Con, Alloys, Cruise	£7995	£1000
04 54 GOLF 2.0 GT TDI 140PS Climate, Alloys, Park Distance	£8495	NIL

USED OTHER MAKES

	OUR PRICE	CASH BACK
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05 55 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1.6 AUTO Black Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£5995	£500
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05 55 MITSUBISHI COLT SDR 1.3 EQUIPPE Silver Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows	£5995	£1000
05 55 RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 7SEATER Blue Metallic, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys	£5995	£495
06 05 PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.4 TOTEM Silver Met, PAS, E/Windows	£5995	£495
04 54 MAZDA 3 SDR TS AUTO Blue Metallic, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, C/Locking	£6795	£800
06 06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S Grey, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking, Alloys	£6995	£1000
05 55 HYUNDAI COUPE 1.6 S2 Red, Half Leather, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys, C/Locking	£6995	£1000
08 57 PEUGEOT 206 3DR LOOK 1.4 Blue Met, A/C, PAS E/Windows	£6995	£1000
07 07 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIFE A/C 3DR Silver, Electric Windows, Central Locking	£6995	£1000
05 55 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 CABRIO DYNAMIQUE Gold, Air Con, Panoramic Roof, Alloys, Electric Roof	£8995	£1000
04 04 FORD GALAXY ZETEC TDI 7 SEATER Silver Met, A/C, Cruise, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD, Alloys	£10495	£2000

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

SMALL FAMILY ESTATES/HOLDALLS

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THIS sector used to dominate UK car sales, but volumes have been eroded by new categories such as 4x4 sports utility vehicle (SUV) and MPVs or 'people carriers' and encroachment by upmarket compact executive models. Nevertheless, many second-hand car buyers still like the idea of a spacious, comfortable and more conventional family runabout, preferably with a hatchback and they have never been better value as other buyers shun them in the stampede to downsize. Two models here have also disappeared from the new car market.

FORD MONDEO



ONCE the UK's favourite car, its fall from favour reflects changing tastes rather than the Mondeo's ability. The car's greatest weakness is the bonnet badge – something the latest generation tries to overcome with Germanic quality and detail. Nevertheless, the previous car was well-built, superb to drive and incredibly spacious. Apart from the best-selling hatchback there is a saloon and one of the roomiest and best-looking estates in the sector, plus a massive range of engines.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL VECTRA



MUCH of that said about the Mondeo applies to its erstwhile arch-rival, the Vectra – now replaced by the Insignia. The final Vectra matched its Mondeo contemporary in most areas, but was chunkier with an interior so well built that it almost intimidates. The choice of bodies echoes the Mondeo and the estate is still the best load carrier in this sector thanks to a longer wheelbase. Diesels are excellent – far better than the troublesome higher output petrol options.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

NISSAN PRIMERA



NISSAN'S final Primera was launched in 2002 and could not contrast more with its staid predecessors. Wind-cheating teardrop lines made it one of the most distinctive cars in this class, but it offers great driving, terrific value and reliability, plus good Renault-sourced turbodiesels for endurance and economy. The Sunderland-built range latterly excluded a saloon option in favour of the best-selling hatchback and spacious and rather more elegant estate.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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05 55 FIAT, IDEA HATCHBACK, 1.4 Active 5dr RED, 34,777 miles

05 55 SKODA, OCTAVIA HATCHBACK, 1.4 16v Classic 5dr Beige, 45,951 miles

04 04 FORD, KA HATCHBACK, 1.3i [70] 3dr Black 56,645 miles

05 05 RENAULT, MODUS, 1.6 Dynamic 5dr Red, 24,225 miles

04 04 NISSAN, ALMERA TINO, 1.8 S 5dr Metallic - Pearl black 56,210 miles

07 07 CHEVROLET, TACUMA ESTATE, 2.0 CDX 5dr Auto Metallic - Light opal grey, 6,778 miles

06 55 CHEVROLET, TACUMA ESTATE, 1.6 SX 5dr Metallic - Denim blue, 44,818 miles

03 03 VOLVO, V40 ESTATE, 1.8 S 5dr [122bhp] Solid - Dark Blue, 80,375 miles

01Y FORD, MONDEO HATCHBACK, 1.8i LX 5dr [AC] GREY 42,520 miles

01 51 RENAULT, CLIO, 1.2 Authentique 3dr Capsicum red, 40,000 miles

05 55 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 5DR BLUE, 15,000 miles

05 05 MONDEO 1.8LX ESTATE BLUE, 37,000 miles

04 54 ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SXi DIESEL Silver metal, 82,000 miles

04 04 VECTRA 2.0 LS DTi ESTATE GOLD, 72,000 miles

04 04 FORD KA 1.3 3DR BLACK, 42,000 miles

98R ROVER 200 211i 8V SDR SILVER, 74,000 miles

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The successful applicant will be a UK and International CPC holder familiar with the planning of vehicles and the ability to operate a successful traffic workflow through the generation of strong innovative problem solving techniques.

For more information call the HR Department on **01303 261870** or email hr@buzzlines.co.uk

TEACHERS!
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£132 PER DAY?
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EDUCATION SENSE

Kent County Council

YISP Project Worker

Starting salary £18,288, with progression through contribution related pay to £20,061 pro rata

2 x 37 hours per week, temporary/secondment opportunity to cover maternity leave

1 x funded until December 2009 - CFE/09/0043

1 x funded until April 2010 with possibility of extension - CFE/09/0044

Based at Adolescent Resource Centre, Tonbridge

The Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling District multi agency Youth Offending Prevention Project are seeking to recruit candidates with a real interest in working with young people who are at risk of offending.

You will need excellent organisational and communication skills, be self motivated with the ability to engage with adolescents, parents/carers and a wide range of partner agencies. Assessment skills, case management and good interpersonal skills are pertinent to this post as is previous experience of working directly with disaffected young people and/or those at risk of offending.

This post could involve evening and weekend working.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

Closing date: Midday, 18th February 2009.

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A great place to work.
Our services aren't the same,
so neither are our people.

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL
NORTH KENT COAST

Environmental Health Officer

Commercial Team

Flexible Working Hours
Up to 18.5 hours per week

£27,612 to £34,092 pro-rata
+ scarcity payment of £3,000 pa (pro-rata),
+ lease car cash alternative

Swale Borough Council is seeking a suitably qualified Environmental Health Officer who will be committed to making a real improvement in the quality of life of those working in a vibrant area of North Kent.

The post would suit someone wishing to work part-time, the exact hours and days being negotiable.

Situated in the Commercial Team, the post covers food safety, health and safety at work, communicable disease and private water supplies, although the main emphasis will be on health and safety at work and enforcement of legislation in food premises.

You will have the benefit of working with experienced officers who hold flexible warrants for partnership working with HSE and other Kent local authorities.

You must have a degree or diploma in Environmental Health, preferably qualified and competent to inspect Approved food premises and high-risk premises for health and safety.

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, payment of professional fees and the Local Government final salary pension scheme.

For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail).

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 22 February 2009
Interviews: w/c 2 March 2009

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SUPPLY & PERMANENT TEACHING STAFF REQUIRED THROUGHOUT THE KENT AREA



**We are now recruiting for April
& September 2009**

Excellent rates of pay!

Are you looking to work for innovative schools throughout the Kent area, where your input could really make a difference?

Are you a dedicated, motivated and ambitious individual looking to teach in a student focused environment? If you have either a PGCE, Qualified Teacher Status or have had experience working in further education and would like more information regarding these vacancies then contact us today!

**Call Anna on 01843 604890
or Clare on 01227 762233
email anna@morganjones.net
or clare@morganjones.net**



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CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT



Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and wellbeing for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kents largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts, relocation package available, occupational sickness benefit, please car scheme for eligible staff, occupational health service, enhanced maternity pay, flexible working policies.

Community Matron/Continuing Care Team Support Workers (*) (🚗)

Band 3: £14,834 - £17,732 per annum
Ashford Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH336
Shepway Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH323
Canterbury Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH324
Swale Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH325
Dover/Deal Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH326
Thanet Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH327

We are looking to recruit 30 Continuing Care Support Workers to work across East Kent based at different locations. Are you a flexible and caring individual who is keen to enable people to be as independent as possible whilst remaining in their own homes to provide personal care or clinical interventions within a multi skilled team for patients with long term conditions and continuing care needs? If so then this post may be for you.

You will need social or healthcare experience to join an innovative community team. The willingness to work towards an NVQ is essential. You will need the confidence to work alone as well as function effectively as part of a large team.

The Continuing Care Team delivers programmes of care that may include nursing and social care tasks. You [Team members] will work unsupervised on a daily basis with an identified caseload in the client's usual place of residence, which could be their own home, or an environment appropriate to their needs. Shift work including night duty is an essential part of this role.

You will require excellent interpersonal skills to enable you to work with a range of staff from various professional backgrounds, with the ability to motivate and encourage people whilst carrying out planned care/ rehabilitation programmes set by team members. There is also an element of personal care assistance required in the post as some of those referred may be frail and dependent.

If you would like to join this friendly and committed team we would like to hear from you.

For an informal chat call Hayley Mullan on 01304 865609.

Closing date: 20 February 2009.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau

(🚗) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act [1995]

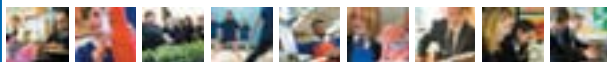
For further information and to apply, please visit WWW.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

*We are an equal opportunities employer
Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults*



**Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com**

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise
and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts



**Would you would you like to train to be a teacher in a supportive
environment with excellent facilities and students who want to learn?
Then you may wish to join us at Spires Academy from September 2009.**

Graduate Trainee Places

We are looking to offer Graduate Trainee Places in the subject areas of:

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in our first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Closing date: 12.00 noon, 27th February 2009.

**Further details and an application form are available on our website
www.spiresacademy.com or contact Marion Wigington
at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or on 01227 710392 ext 227 for an
information pack.**

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening, including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.



ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"

Full-time Teacher

Due to continued expansion and growth, the above vacancy has arisen in our EBD Schools for pupils in Key Stages 2-4; all of whom have emotional and behavioural difficulties. EBD experience preferable, but not essential. A flexible approach to teaching is important. An understanding of integrated studies would be an advantage. Support and training will be given.

Salary depending on experience, post to commence as soon as possible

Closing date: 13 February 2009

Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:

**Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston,
Kent, CT12 5BZ – Telephone: 01843 823762**

We are an equal opportunities employer



**St Edmund's
Catholic School**
Specialist school for the learning disabled

Old Charlton Road,
Dover, Kent CT16 2QB

required for September 2009

GRADUATES

to achieve qualified teacher status through the one year Graduate Teachers' Programme teaching **Mathematics, Science, Leisure & Tourism, & MFL** (French, Spanish, Italian: any combination) to GCSE and/or A Level.

Apply in writing, enclosing a C.V. to

Mr C. J. Atkin (Headteacher)

Tel: 01304 201551 Fax: 01304 202226

Email: office@st-edmunds-dover.kent.sch.uk

An enhanced CRB disclosure check will be required

Closing Date: Friday 6th March Interviews: Tuesday 17th March



ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"

Speech Therapist to work with Children with Challenging behaviours

We require a Speech Therapist to join our multi-disciplinary pool of professionals who are able to offer Individual Psychotherapy Therapy, Counselling, Life Story Work, Anger Management and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Applicants will be accredited by BACP and/or UKCP registered and be qualified to a minimum of diploma level and knowledge of working with clients with Learning Difficulties beneficial. Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:

**Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston,
Kent, CT12 5BZ 01843 823762**

We are an equal opportunities employer

Drug Counsellors

1 YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT

£21,244 – £27,492 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK

EAST & WEST KENT

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Working within the Structured Psychosocial Interventions Functional Specialist Group, you will be based in East or West Kent and manage a client caseload under clinical supervision. You will also be required to complete client assessments and contribute towards the care planning process.

You will need a qualification in counselling at diploma level and experience of working in the drug and alcohol field would be desirable. BACP accreditation or working towards this is essential.

The flexibility to work away from your service base and the ability to work outside normal office hours would be an advantage.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from

<http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email

recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House,
44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635.

Please quote reference 550.

Closing date: Friday 13 February 2009.

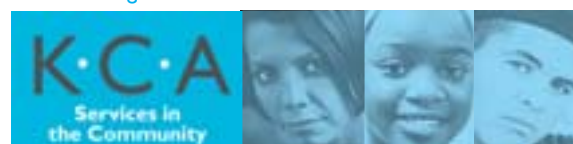
Interview date: Thursday 19 February 2009.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers.**

Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



morris & turner
BATHROOM AND FIREPLACE WAREHOUSE

Require a
Full Time
Showroom Sales Person

Experience in the home improvement market preferable, candidates must have good communication skills and deliver the highest level of customer care.

If you possess determination, enjoy meeting people and like to work as part of a team, then

Please send your CV ASAP for the attention of Mr Morris at Morris and Turner
4 Third Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0AD
E-Mail colin@morrisandturner.co.uk or
Telephone 01634 813813 - Fax: 01634 813861

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New Branch at 37 High Street, Canterbury
The UK's trendiest Brand Fashion Footwear retailer are looking for a

Branch Manager, Assistant Manager and Sales Assistant(s)

Managers will need retail experience in supervising staff, driving sales, customer service and visual merchandising. Full training given and competitive salary. So do you have a personality that would enjoy our environment of high fashion footwear and accessories all in the sound of cool tunes...?

Email your CV to recruitment@treds.co.uk "Subject: CT Recruitment" or post to tReds Recruitment, 48 Lynch Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9DN. Alternatively you may pop into one of our 23rd Feb. Application by cover letter plus CV only.
www.treds.co.uk

Guardian
homecare

CARE SUPERVISOR

Guardian Homecare have a vacancy for a field based supervisor of domiciliary care services to join our local team. The posts will involve all elements of quality control in the field - care worker supervisions, spot checks, service user assessments and reviews, complaint management. Post holders will also be expected to cover care calls in emergencies or to cover short term absences. This post would suit workers already in supervisory roles or experienced care workers looking to advance their career. Successful candidates will be required to participate fully in the 24 hour on-call service. NVQ level 3 in social care would be a distinct advantage.

If you would like to discuss these opportunities further, or would like an application pack, please contact Sue Wheeler on 01634 265891 / swheeler@guardianhomecare.org.uk

Closing Date for Applications is 18th February 2009
Guardian Homecare is an equal opportunities employer

BT Local Business
represented by Utopia Enterprise Solutions Ltd

Desk Based Sales Executive
Basic £14k+£16k OTE commission (total £30k)
North and East Kent

BT Local Business is a successful venture created by BT to provide complete voice, data and PC solutions to local SME businesses.

We are looking for individuals with a proven record of selling solutions and hardware to SME's. A successful candidate must be bright, self-motivated and confident when dealing with customers and will be required to make telephone calls into our extensive customer base.

In return we offer: a basic salary, bonus package and comprehensive training.

If you would like to be part of this exciting venture, please send your CV to:
darren.burton@btlocalbusiness.co.uk
or call 01732 873 344

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www.btlocalbusiness.co.uk

HMYOI ROCHESTER, MEDWAY PRISONS
HEALTH PARTNERSHIP >

**EXTRAORDINARY JOBS.
EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.**

HMYOI Rochester requires Registered General Nurses, Mental Health Nurses and Learning Difficulties Nurses:

BAND 5 REGISTERED NURSES (GENERAL, MENTAL HEALTH, LEARNING DIFFICULTIES)
£20,225 - £26,123 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £1,542 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

The Registered General Nurse will nurse in a general practice environment and respond calmly in a changing environment or to urgent events. Skills including chronic disease management, good assessment skills, triage, minor illnesses, sexual health and health promotion skills are desirable.

The Registered Mental Health or Learning Difficulties nurse will assess and support a range of community mental health, mental illness and behavioural issues including work with substance and alcohol misuse. Skills needed include crisis intervention and risk management and work with self-harm. CBT and behavioural management skills and experience working with conduct disorder, ADHD or Autism/Aspergers spectrum behaviours will be valued.

Nursing in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

HMYOI Rochester requires two Band 4 Health Support Workers delivering a range of one-to-one and group interventions:

BAND 4 HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS (PRIMARY CARE & PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH CARE) – HMYOI ROCHESTER (HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER)
£17,316 - £20,818 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £952 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

With a relevant qualification preferably to diploma level or NVQ 3/4 or equivalent or relevant qualifying experience in health, health education, or social care service delivery you will have a proven record and work well in partnership with other professionals. You must have good basic educational skills and the ability to deliver interventions one-to-one or with groups is essential. Knowledge of health education and health improvement procedures and techniques is desirable. Health promotion in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

In return, you'll receive 27 days' annual leave plus 8 public and privilege holidays per annum and entry into the NHS Pension by invitation.

To apply for these posts please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.
The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 20 February 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

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T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spireacademy.com

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Spire Academy

Spire Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in its first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community and a 'can do' mentality.

In appointing teaching colleagues we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas are also important.

Required for September 2009

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING – FOR ENGLISH
MPS + TLR £10,303 pa

An exciting opportunity has arisen, following internal promotion, for an outstanding teacher with strong leadership credentials to lead our English team.

We are seeking to appoint a new Director of Learning, who will lead the English team at this exciting stage in our continued growth and development. Although results last year were above the 30% threshold, we are aiming for greater things in the coming years.

TEACHER OF ENGLISH

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of English to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term.

You will either have QTS in English Teaching or currently be completing your GTP/PGCE year.

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of Mathematics to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term.

Prospective candidates will either have QTS in Mathematics Teaching or currently be completing their GTP/PGCE year.

Closing date for the above posts: 12.00 noon, 27th February 2009.

Required for April 2009

COVER SUPERVISOR
Equivalent to Kent Scheme Level 5 | £16,221 – 17,842 pro rata

8.00am – 4.00pm, Mon – Fri term time + five days

Are you committed to developing learning and raising aspirations with students? If so, we want to hear from you. You will be energetic, enthusiastic and able to take charge of children's learning through the delivery of set work.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Closing date for this post: 12.00 noon, 24th February 2009.

Further details and application forms for all the above posts are available on our website www.spireacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spireacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392 ext 227.

Spire Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

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COLLECT your messages:
0906 550 4335
 (Calls cost £1/min; contact your service provider for details)

REPLY to an ad, call:
0905 211 0651
 (Calls cost £1.20/min; contact your service provider for details)

REPLY by Text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

BROWSE and listen line:
0906 753 3093
 (Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

HELP required with service?
0871 220 9205

Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri Email: louise@g8waye.co.uk
 (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)



WOMEN seeking men

TAKE ME FOR WHO I AM
 Hi I'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, have brown eyes, love cosy nights in and cinema, looking to share a relationship. Box 447871

SINGLE DAD WANTED
 Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals. WLTm an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099

SOCER FAN SEEKS SOULMATE
 Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494

HOLD MY HAND
 Single mum, 42, 5ft9, looking for LTR. I enjoy cosy nights in, dancing, dining out. I'm 5ft1, short hair, blue eyes. Box 445363

See online for:

• Success Stories

Read or write your own Success Story. Our members have been keen to write about their stories and how they met - you know, their stories may help you in your search! We are always glad to hear from you.

• Increase your dating success

Online, say more about yourself and your perfect partner with our extended profile, add extra photos to your profile, even change your ad's colour! It makes for a great dating advert that other people are bound to like!

• Search at your leisure

If you can't find who you're looking for on our page here, you will find so many more members online. Browse, read, hear and see members.

www.people2people.co.uk/kos.asp

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving lovely female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

GET A STRIKE

African, single mum, caring, adventurous, generous, 30yrs old, medium build. I love cinema/TV, music, bowling, shopping, cosy nights in. Box 882789

NO TIMEWASTERS!

Easysgoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTm loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CHATHAM UP!

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, affectionate guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

A NEW FUTURE!

I'm Rachel, 35, medium, enjoys pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, cinema, theme parks, looking someone special to share things with. Box 448591

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoys cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Social, genuine, honest, single mum, 36, 5ft6, I've got hazel eyes and dark hair, and enjoy the cinema, meals out. WLTm sincere, attractive, genuine male. Box 446840

WHO KNOWS?

Hi, I'm Alison, 36, 5ft5, single mum, loves swimming, roller skating and meeting new people, looking for a male for friendship, maybe leading to more. Box 448865

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue-eyes, N/S, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term, serious relationship. Box 438102

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good-looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, two kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039

TRY ME

Ashtford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring, and loving man. I have two kids, and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985

HERE WE ARE

Shy girl, 38, loves having laughs and lots of fun, seeks similar guy to enjoy special moments and hopefully love with. Box 448679

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTm slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573

THE SIMPLE THINGS...

I like reading/writing, going out, music. Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship, leading to more. Box 882693

SOULMATE SOUGHT

African descent female, 45, 5ft6, full figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTm gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun. Box 443998

HERE WE ARE

Easysgoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672

HERE AND NOW

Genuine young lady, 45, 5ft2, seeking loving, caring, honest, reliable guy to have fun and enjoy romance with. Box 448511

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy. Box 425952

ENTERTAIN ME

Female, 50, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter, must be honest, genuine and loving. Box 438854

WHERE R U?

Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim, looking to find an honest, loyal man. I can please call again/leave contact details. Box 887347

FOR KEEPS

Hi I'm Karen, 50, medium build, 5ft, separated, devoted mum, looking for friendship with someone who likes dining out, evening walks, and perhaps something lasting... Box 882618

LET'S CLICK

WLTm a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847

TOGETHER?

Slender lady, 42, 5ft9, long dark hair, loves walking her dogs, enjoys the outdoors, seeks gentleman to spend time with and get to know. Box 446981

FAST LOVE

Single lady, 43, likes gardening, eating out, cinema, music and more, seeking male for friendship and maybe more. Box 446991

AIMING HIGH

6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446017

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

COUNTRY LASS SEARCHING FOR LOVE

Country-loving happy lady, 43, green eyes, long curly hair, good figure, looking for a genuine guy for a serious relationship and happy moments. Box 883723

TACTILE

Divorced single mum, 43, from Kent, likes swimming, cinema, walking on the beach, socialising and sharing a bottle of wine, looking for a nice man. Box 448900

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde/blue, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557

SCOTTISH LASS

Maggie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years. I like pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship, leading to more. Box 882693

SOULMATE SOUGHT

African descent female, 45, 5ft6, full figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTm gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun. Box 443998

HERE WE ARE

Easysgoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672

HERE AND NOW

Genuine young lady, 45, 5ft2, seeking loving, caring, honest, reliable guy to have fun and enjoy romance with. Box 448511

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy. Box 425952

ENTERTAIN ME

Female, 50, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter, must be honest, genuine and loving. Box 438854

WHERE R U?

Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim, looking to find an honest, loyal man. I can please call again/leave contact details. Box 887347

FOR KEEPS

Hi I'm Karen, 50, medium build, 5ft, separated, devoted mum, looking for friendship with someone who likes dining out, evening walks, and perhaps something lasting... Box 882618

LET'S CLICK

WLTm a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847

TOGETHER?

Slender lady, 42, 5ft9, long dark hair, loves walking her dogs, enjoys the outdoors, seeks gentleman to spend time with and get to know. Box 446981

FAST LOVE

Single lady, 43, likes gardening, eating out, cinema, music and more, seeking male for friendship and maybe more. Box 446991

AIMING HIGH

6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446017

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

COUNTRY LASS SEARCHING FOR LOVE

Country-loving happy lady, 43, green eyes, long curly hair, good figure, looking for a genuine guy for a serious relationship and happy moments. Box 883723

TACTILE

Divorced single mum, 43, from Kent, likes swimming, cinema, walking on the beach, socialising and sharing a bottle of wine, looking for a nice man. Box 448900

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde/blue, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557

SCOTTISH LASS

Maggie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years. I like pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

DEVOTED IN LOVE

Petite lady, 57, 5ft3, long dark hair/green eyes, like theatre, cinema, music, reading, socialising, meals out and entertaining at home. Looking for someone like you. Box 882546

THE NICE THINGS...

Attractive, slim, 57yr old woman, new to area, looking for similar male, well built. I'm a smoker, like clubs, pubs, and nice things in life. Box 448572

SOMETHING NEW

Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music; WLTm male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447662

RESCUE ME

Independent lady, 58, outgoing, loving, friendly, kind, caring, most of all honest, non-smoking, lots of fun...looking for similar male for LTR. Box 882641

PISCES OR CAPRICORN?

Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; WLTm tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

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HAPPY AS ME

Fun-to-be with, happy, contented lady (60), 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening and pets. Box 882812

COULD IT BE YOU?

Non-smoking lady, 60, 5ft2, medium build, bubbly, enjoys theatre, cinema, gardening, walks, holidays...WLTm someone to share the rest of my life with. Eastbourne. Box 448837

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, GSOH, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791

SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...

Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446392

LET'S FALL IN LOVE

Lovely female, 65, 5ft2, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763

SILVER FOX

Sincere widow, 68, 5ft6, medium build, likes a glass of wine, walks, watching TV, seeks outgoing gent for companionship. Battle Box 448792

TO ENJOY LIFE

Hi I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium, lots of interests: motorcycles, WLTm kind and honest female to share fun times and laughter with. Box 445124

LONESOME LAD LOOKING FOR LOVE

Blond 39yr old lad, blue eyes, educated, attractive, solvent (just), genuine, loyal, adventurous, definitely different. Seeks beautiful future with someone like you. Box 885814

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 414917

FOR GOOD, FOREVER

Hi I'm 40, 5ft8, with short brown hair, brown eyes, loves fishing, walking, swimming, sport; seeking female who's kind, genuine and caring. Box 448686

HONEST AND KIND

Down-to-earth, great personality, 41, 6ft, medium build, loves the countryside, wine bars, cinema, sport; seeking female with great personality, honest and trustworthy. Box 446596

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142

FRIENDSHIP, HOPEFULLY MORE

Feminine woman, easysgoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes. I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTm boyish female. Box 448248



MEN seeking women

HELLO, I'M
 Andy, 26, 5ft10, likes going to pubs and restaurants, just looking for a similar girl to fall in love with. Box 448888

UP FOR IT?

Andy, 26, 5ft10, very good looking and likes wining and dining in nice pubs and restaurants and would like to take you out. Box 448896

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

County award awaits top village shopkeeper



VILLAGERS who think their local shopkeeper deserves a pat on the back are invited to nominate them as this year's top community retailer.

If your rural independent shop owner gives great customer service and deserves recognition for this or any other work in the community, here's your chance to thank them.

Ask your parish council to enter the shop for the Community Retailer of the Year 2009. It is run through Action with Communities in Rural Kent, a registered charity, and the contacts are Sean Carter and Miranda Hayes on 01303 813790.

The entry form can be found at www.ruralkent.org.uk and any parish council can nominate a local independent rural shop. The deadline is March 31. The winner will be announced on September 1, along with the winner of the Village of the Year award.

Last year's winner was Ian Flory, of the Spar shop in Sissinghurst, who is pictured above receiving his award from Sean Carter.

That's quite wonderful

THE Wonderful Creative Agency's Give a Tenth programme is proving popular.

It gives a tenth of its time and resources to the community and is a big hit with Kent charities.

The Maidstone-based agency offers marketing advice, fundraising strategy development, design production and PR for free. Several charities, including the Pilgrims Hospice and Demelza, have already been involved.

Others include Music for Change in Canterbury and the Kent Association for the Blind.

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Julie Maddocks asks: In business, is small really beautiful? Search 'crunch'

'Freeze rates or risk us going to the wall'

Businesses appeal for rethink on planned 5% rates rise

■ BY TONY PATEY

COUNCILS could be swamped by appeals from firms fighting the recession as business rates rocket to their highest level in 16 years.

Already there has been an angry backlash from industry groups and the Conservatives, who are urging the Government to take urgent action to stop the five per cent rise in April.

Companies are trying to combat the toughest economic conditions for at least 30 years and now, on a national basis, they're being asked to stump up what represents an extra £1 billion.

Councils collect about £20 billion a year from business rates, but the review of new levels is based on the profits and turnover of companies from a couple of years ago.

If their trading levels have changed dramatically since, they can appeal. The rate is set by central government and the tax is collected by local authorities.

Channel Chamber of Commerce manager Caroline Chambers said that two years ago most firms were doing well, and if they are still doing well there is no problem, but for those doing a lot worse or making losses, the picture is different.

She said: "Businesses are already struggling to pay their rates. They are not a bottomless pit of money. They are already feeling the pinch."

"I would urge every single business that is going to appeal to start the process now."

Shadow minister for communities Caroline Spelman said: "The Government needs to look again at the formula and methodology, otherwise it could be the nail in the coffin for many struggling firms."



FEELING THE PINCH: Caroline Spelman MP and Roger House have joined the chorus of alarm over business rate rises

British Chambers of Commerce director-general David Frost said firms were already struggling with their cash flows – vital day-to-day money used to run businesses – and would find it hard to meet the new rate rise.

"If the Government is serious about helping firms survive the worst downturn in a generation, it should be cutting the rates until the economic situation significantly improves."

Roger House, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses for Kent and Medway added: "Cash flow is king for small businesses which want to hold on to and train their staff and grow their enterprises during these recessionary times."

"With small business failures entering their hundreds each day and taking thousands of jobs with them, it seems counterproductive to introduce higher taxes."

CBI business environment policy director Neil Bentley said the rate should be frozen and it was an "unnecessary" increase anyway.

"This will affect nearly every firm, and struggling retailers will be particularly hard hit, at a time when they need all the help we can give them," he said.

"This threat to jobs, investment and the survival of viable businesses can still be avoided if the Government lives up to its promise of doing everything it can, by freezing the rates."



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Picture: IGOR KUPCO



BLITZ: Second-half strikes gave Ville victory

Second-half surge sees Ville do double over Oaks

CLIFTONVILLE completed a double over Sevenoaks 4ths, with a 3-1 win, despite being relieved to reach half-time goalless.

A revitalised Cliftonville took an early second half lead after a prolonged period in possession.

Skipper Dave Potter's shot looked tame, but spun wickedly and bamboozled the keeper. A sharp save from Dan Sheppard preserved Ville's lead and they went further ahead with Alex Taylor's deflected shot.

Sevenoaks rallied and although Sheppard kept out an initial effort from a short corner the rebound made it 2-1.

HOCKEY

Cliftonville 3 Sevenoaks 4th 1

As Sevenoaks pressed for an equaliser Cliftonville caught them on the counter-attack, with Mark Tiley deflecting an effort into the top corner.

The Ladies 1sts suffered a 1-0 defeat against BBHC. Ville took a while to get going but it looked like they'd weathered the first-half storm when they conceded moments before the interval. Cliftonville

dominated after the break and shut up shop at the back, but despite forcing a series of corners they were unable to draw level.

The men's third team beat Herne Bay 4ths 5-3. They soaked up early pressure and scored two quick goals, then went 3-0 up before keeper Chris Moore had a moment of madness. Having made a series of excellent saves, Moore promptly wiped out an opponent and was lucky to stay on the field for the resulting penalty, which he duly saved.

Herne Bay pulled one back, before Ville went 5-1 up, though two late goals made the scoreline look respectable for the visitors.

Wanderers' cup run is put on ice

THANET Wanderers were left kicking their heels on Saturday, after their Kent Cup tie with London 3 South East side Sevenoaks was postponed due to adverse weather conditions.

The first round tie with the Oaks has been rearranged for Sunday, March 1, the date originally scheduled for the quarter-finals.

Thanet, who are second from bottom in their London 2 South division, are set to return to league action on Saturday when they host the side immediately above them, Beckenham. Thanet's last outing in the league saw them lose 13-10 at Old Colfeians, while Beckenham lost 20-38 at home to basement side Maidstone.

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Gills top-scorer Simeon Jackson on
winning January player of the month

Big chill sweeps Sunday League

BAD weather again played havoc with the Thanet Sunday Football League with only a handful of games surviving last weekend.

In the only game to go ahead in the Premier Division, Active FC took advantage with a 15-0 thrashing of rock bottom Northwood FC. Liam Morris top scored with four goals, while Russell Hughes also bagged a hat-trick.

Barnaby moved to within a point of Division One's top three with a 6-0 win against Preston Hellings, while in Division Two Lesters beat Don Ronaldo 5-4 and Prestige Insurance came past Social Moenchengladbach 3-1.

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Picture: ADY KERRY

WAITING: Takaloo, who is desperate to get back to fighting, is still awaiting a call from promoters, but he says that boxing is being affected by the economic downturn

Margate Rock's ring return is hit by recession blues

BOXING

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

It could mean potential fights in the USA as Calzaghe looks to the American market as a place to blood his boxers, but with time ticking away and no fights forthcoming, the chances of Takaloo getting back in the ring are reducing.

The Margate Rock, as he is known, has been back in the gym for several months but admits he can't wait for a fight forever.

"It's the boredom thing really because your body can only train so much doing a certain thing," he said. "It's not the same thing as being punched in the head. I'm in the gym training

hard just waiting for a fight, I need to get a few wins under my belt."

The economic crisis has also stretched as far as boxing, according to Takaloo which will not help his case having been out of the ring for more than a year. He may draw heart from one of his former opponents, Ryan Rhodes, who has won his last six bouts at the age of 32, who is set to fight Small for the British title next month.

Takaloo said: "Everything is so slow at the moment, fighters are not getting the fights. It's very difficult out there – everyone is nervous and the promoters aren't getting the fights and they're using the recession as an excuse. I'll have an eye on the Small and Rhodes fight to see what comes out of that."

Gate boost survival hopes with a priceless victory

FOOTBALL

BY YOURTHANET REPORTER

Margate 2

Wilson 46, Peters 90

Tooting & Mitchum Utd 0

GOALS in the first and last minutes of the second half, including a screamer from Wayne Wilson, lifted Margate to 19th in the Ryman League Premier Division on Saturday.

Keeper Pat Mullin made a series of outstanding saves, but the home side were good value for the win, against demoralised opponents.

In an even first half Margate were forced into an early substitution when Roberto Corbishley was forced off with a knee injury and replaced by James Gregory.

Both sides were let down by their finishing in an even first 45 minutes, before a moment of brilliance from Wayne Wilson broke the deadlock moments after the restart.

Wilson, restored to the starting XI after missing last week's unlucky loss at Tonbridge, vindicated manager Terry Yorath's faith in



DANGER MAN: Ryan Peters sealed a crucial Gate victory

him when he lashed a partially cleared free-kick into the top corner from fully 25 yards.

Margate starting XI



Subs used: Gregory (Corbishley 28) Taylor (Pratt 83) McGibbon (Peters 90+1)

The goal shocked the Terrors, who were put on the back foot for much of the second half.

Just before the hour mark Kenny Pratt forced a sharp save from visiting keeper Dave King and within moments Ryan Peters shot just wide.

King then thwarted Joe Healy and on 67 minutes a Peters effort flashed wide.

Tooting belatedly came to life after a double substitution with 20 minutes to go, with Kirk Watts causing problems for the home defence, but Margate made the game safe in the last minute of normal time.

With Tooting leaving gaps at the back, Dan Young's pass found Peters, who rode a challenge and slid in his fourth goal of the season.

Margate comfortably negotiated four minutes of injury time and are now behind Ramsgate on goal difference only, with a game in hand on their Thanet rivals.

The Gate are away to Hastings on Saturday - log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk for details.

FOOTBALL



OFF: Rams boss Jim Ward was sent to the stands

Bye bye to boss as Hornets sting Rams in card-ridden game

Horsham 1 Ramsgate 0

RAMSGATE committed the footballing equivalent of hari-kiri on Saturday, when they had two players sent off and saw manager Jim Ward sent to the stands.

A late goal by Reggie Savage left the visitors hovering just one place above the relegation zone, having played more games than all the sides below them.

With the threat of a points deduction for fielding too many players on short-term loan contracts also hanging over the club, several suspensions were the last thing the Rams needed.

Des Byrne and Nick Davis had early chances to put the visitors in front, but they were forced into an unwanted substitution on 14 minutes after an injury to Danny Walder.

An uneventful first half briefly flared into life when Ben Brown was shown a straight red for an alleged two-footed tackle on Darren Budd with 19 minutes gone.

Exertions

The ten men shut the Hornets out until half-time and almost took the lead early in the second half. Dan Tanner rose well to meet a Byrne centre, but his header was straight at Horsham goalkeeper Rob Tolfrey.

Seven minutes after the break the task facing the Rams was made even harder when Lee Minshull was shown a straight red for an equally rash challenge.

With Ward then getting sent to the stand the odds were stacked against Ramsgate, but remarkably they created chances and held out until 11 minutes from time. With the visitors tiring from their exertions, Savage collected an incisive through ball from Sam Page to slide a neat shot past the advancing Jamie Turner.

Nick Davis then cleared off the line from Tony Nwachukwu but having kept his side in the game he then wasted a glorious opportunity to equalise in the dying moments.



WINNERS: Faversham Strikeforce is recognised as the award is handed out by Sir Trevor Brooking

Prestigious awards call for nominations

THE KENT County FA is inviting football clubs to make nominations for the 2009 Charter Standard Club Awards.

The prestigious awards are only open to clubs who have been attained the Charter Standard Award, which recognises clubs which achieve high standards in coaching, administration and child protection.

There are separate awards for club, adult club, development club, community club, coach and administrator.

Winners at the county level will go on to compete for regional and national awards. Kent have done well in recent years, with Faversham Strike Force FC, Bredhurst Village FC, and Bearsted FC all winning National FA Awards, while Maidstone Rangers FC's John Harvey won National Club Administrator of the year.

Lee Suter, Football Development Officer at Kent County FA, said: "The county has some great clubs with superb volunteers and this is their chance to gain recognition for the fantastic work carried out in grassroots football."

Nomination forms are available at www.kentfa.com, which also has more information on Charter Standard.

Entries must be returned to Lee Suter by April 27, with winners announced in May.



CHAMP: Rik Leach (left) from Isle of Thanet Amateur Boxing Club won the county title last month

Isle club hits on a winner

THE newly-formed Isle of Thanet Amateur Boxing Club are celebrating one of their first successes, after a breakthrough win by 18-year-old Rik Leach.

Leach scored a unanimous victory over his rival Jordan Hicks, from Brompton ABC, at Dover Town Hall on January 24, to take the Kent Class C 48-51 kg category title.

Leach now has a walkover to the pre quarter-finals of the national championships, due to be held on Valentine's Day at the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot, Hampshire, and he must wait to discover the identity of his next opponent.

17-year-old Edward Leach, competing in the class B 48-50 kg division was given a first round walkover, handing him a trip to Guildford in Surrey to meet semi-final opponent, George Chapman from Crawley ABC.

Leach also won after a unanimous decision by the judges and subsequently scored an

BOXING

equally convincing win in the final against Lewis Thompson from Woodcote ABC to lift the South-Eastern Counties title.

Leach will face Franky Payne from Brentwood in the finals at Aldershot, an opponent he beat when he last fought him a few months ago.

The Thanet club was formed last year, after being awarded money from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF), set up in Thanet to offer diversionary activities for young people.

The club hold sessions on Monday evenings between 6.30pm and 7.30pm at the Ramsgate Sports Centre and at Hartsdown Leisure Centre between 6.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

To find out more, contact Neil Leach on 01843 223714.

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